

BRISTOL

UNDER BLITZ



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*His Majesty the King greeted by the Lord Mayor on arrival at
Bristol, 16th December, 1940.*



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BRISTOL UNDER BLITZ

*The record of an ancient City and her people
during the Battle of Britain*

1940-1

*'Tis not the walls that make the City but the
people who live within them*

KING GEORGE VI

By

ALDERMAN T. H. J. UNDERDOWN
M.A., J.P.

Lord Mayor of Bristol, 1940-1

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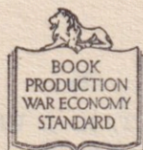
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THIS book appears at a time when production has had to be governed by the pressing need for economy in paper. Compression into so few pages could not be achieved without some sacrifice in the appearance of the printed page and of the illustrations. The typography and binding conform to the authorized economy standard.



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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD	4
THE BLITZED CITY	5
THE WINTER OF RAIDS	11
THE CITY'S EMERGENCY HOSTELS	15
THE STORY OF THE HOSPITALS	16
SYMPATHY FROM THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD	20
GIFTS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—	
The Discovery of America—Bristol to Bristol—"Vermont Speaking"—	
The Lord Mayor Replies—American Contacts Strengthened—"Bellows"	21-7
THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AIDS—	
CANADA—The Montreal Symbolic Picture—Prince Edward Island—	
Winnipeg's Service—Other Goodly Gifts from Canada	28-30
SOUTH AFRICA—Capetown—Widespread African Support	30-2
AUSTRALIA	33
NEW ZEALAND	33
FROM OTHER DISTANT LANDS	34
MOBILE CANTEENS—AND AMERICAN AMBULANCES	34
AID FROM THE HOMELAND	35
MORALE MAINTAINED—	
"Morale—How to Play Your Part"—Malta Commends—Dramatic Aid	
to Morale	36-7
THE FUND IN ACTION—	
Hinnegar Camp—Oxford Colleges Adopt Bristol—Schools and Colleges—	
The Blind—Hostel for Mothers and Babies—Winter Rest Home in the	
South	38-43
EVACUATION OF THE CHILDREN	44
NOTABLE VISITORS—and from U.S.A.	46-7
"BRISTOL FASHION"—"Virtute et Industria"	47-8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

His Majesty the King greeted by the Lord Mayor on arrival at Bristol	Page 2 of cover
His Majesty the King in the ruins of Wine Street	Facing page 8
The Prime Minister, with Mr. Menzies and Mr. Winant, outside the	
University—Easter Saturday, 1941	9
H.R.H. the late Duke of Kent, with the Regional Commissioner, General	
Sir Hugh Elles	9
Thumbs Up! The children leave for Devon and safety	16
Christmas party, 1940	16
His Majesty the King thanks the Matrons and Hospital Staffs	17
Her Majesty Queen Mary at the Cathedral with the Bishop of Bristol, the Dean	
of Bristol, the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress	17
In the ruins of Mary-le-Port Street, Mr. B. de N. Cruger presents £6,250 from	
the British War Relief Society of the U.S.A.	32
Mrs. Mass presents £3,000, proceeds of Bristol's own Flag Day for the National	
Air Raid Distress Fund	32
Sister Clark presents The Florida Canteen	33
Nurse Tatem presents the Canteen from the Turks and Caicos Islands	33
Mr. E. S. Scudder opens the Bristol, Rhode Island, Hostel	33
Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, presents the Canteen from the	
Australian Mutual Provident Society	33
A visit to Arcadia Bellows, Cheddar	40
The Duchess of Beaufort at Hinnegar Camp	40
Bristol at Balliol	41
Peace—Bristolians in Wadham College garden	Page 3 of cover

FOREWORD

(By the Very Rev. the Dean of Bristol, Harry W. Blackburne, D.S.O., M.C., M.A.)

It is a great privilege to have been asked to write a few words of introduction to this account of the severe air raids which took place in Bristol during the Mayoralty of Alderman Underdown.

No Lord Mayor was ever called upon to do so much under such trying circumstances, and no man could have achieved this enormous task more lovingly or successfully than he did.

The description given in this book of the devastating air raids on Bristol and of the way in which they were faced will be a treasured possession of the citizens of Bristol for all time. The account given of the various Services brought into action speaks for itself, no further words of comment need be added. But of this I am sure, the citizens of Bristol would wish it to be put on record in this introduction that we are under an immense debt to Alderman Underdown for the magnificent example he gave to us in those grim days. His courage and his devotion to duty aroused the intense admiration of the whole City.

When the Prime Minister visited Bristol after one of the worst raids and was taken round the devastated areas by the Lord Mayor, few had any idea that the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress nearly lost their lives the night before. On several occasions Alderman Underdown went about his work at the risk of his own life, and wherever he went he brought with him a feeling of calmness and confidence. Practically every man, woman and child injured in the raids received from him a personal visit. He attended at the Communal Burials and spoke to the bereaved. He arranged for thousands of mothers, children and old people to be sent, free of all expense, to camps and Oxford Colleges, to Bournemouth, Cheltenham, and other places for a rest and change, and through his Committee financed homes for the blind and for old people who had no one to take care of them.

Lord Elton, in his recently published book *St. George or The Dragon*, tells us that without loyalty, courage, endurance and discipline, throughout the entire mass of ordinary citizens, we shall not survive the present ordeal. These qualities shone out clearly in the daily life and actions of our Lord Mayor, who, with the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Underdown, gave us a magnificent lead during their year of office. We ask them to accept our sincere thanks for their leadership, and we are grateful to Alderman Underdown for putting on record a description of those dark days.

HARRY W. BLACKBURNE.

BRISTOL UNDER BLITZ

THE members of the Lord Mayor's War Services Council during the year herein recorded were :—

Alderman T. H. J. Underdown, J.P., Lord Mayor (*Chairman*) : Alderman A. W. S. Burgess, J.P. ; Alderman F. C. Luke, J.P. ; Alderman E. T. Cozens, J.P. ; Councillor H. Crook ; Mr. Ellison F. Eberle ; Mr. J. Marks, J.P. ; Mrs. Lennard ; Mr. H. Baker ; Miss Goss ; Mrs. Myles ; Mr. G. Stark (Assistance Board) ; Mr. A. H. Gee-Williams (Assistance Board) ; Mr. H. V. Hindle (*Hon. Secretary*) ; Mr. H. J. G. Rudman (*Hon. Treasurer*)

THE BLITZED CITY

HEREIN is set forth a brief story of the ordeal suffered by the people of Bristol at the hands of the Nazis, followed by a report on the steps taken to ameliorate the hardships of the victims by the administration of the Lord Mayor's War Services Fund—more commonly known as the Air-Raid Distress Fund. The period covered is the mayoral year, 1940-1.

The first great blow fell on the night of Sunday the 24th of November, 1940. During the first fourteen months of the World War the sirens had given their wailing warning by day and night some hundreds of times. Many parts of the City had experienced spasmodic bombing at lengthy intervals. These nuisance raids had called into action the City's defences, both military and civil. There had been a few casualties, some fatal. A few homes and business properties had been destroyed. But on that Sunday night the enemy wrought havoc upon the city and her people.

The 24th was a typical November day of dull leaden skies with a light mist towards sunset. As darkness fell, the alert was given and by 6.30 the skies over the centre of the City were brightly lit by flares dropped from enemy 'planes. Then the fiery attack was let loose with utter ruthlessness. Showers of incendiary bombs kindled and spread the conflagration. High explosive bombs whistled and screamed to earth. Many were of extremely large calibre and spread the raging fires from building to building until whole streets were ablaze. The flames appeared as one huge fiery furnace leaping high into the air and giving an intensity of daylight over a great part of the City. The scene presented a veritable volcanic cataclysm. Crashes of high buildings and the volumes of flame, as castellated church towers carried the fires to greater heights, added a touch of grandeur to this inferno of terrorism. Men, afar off, scores of miles distant, gazed with wonder upon the illuminated skies as though peering into a mirror to learn the fate of a blitzed city.

But while Bristol burned her people were bravely fighting. The Regular Police Fire Brigade led the van and was more than extended even with the support of 1,000 Auxiliary Fire Service men, ninety per cent. of whom responded to the call of duty within thirty minutes of the air-raid warning. Soldiers and naval men also

co-operated splendidly. The men fought a great fight against overwhelming odds. During the first hour 70 fires were reported, mostly in the centre of the City. Every available appliance of the fire-brigade was brought into operation throughout the night and well on into the following day. Firemen were frequently diverted from their fire-fighting to save the lives of citizens. In this rescue work one officer faced the task of saving from a Home 35 elderly women, many of whom were invalids. Another diversion involved the evacuation of 60 horses from their stables. But the men fought on, several paying the supreme sacrifice on the altar of duty.

Damage to the mains caused a failure of water supply. The reserve water from tanks and reservoirs was soon exhausted. There remained the supplies from the Avon and the harbour with the use of fire-floats. Meantime, assistance had arrived from other areas. The Bristol Fire Services were reinforced by 77 Fire Brigades from neighbouring counties, with an addition of 20,000 feet of hose from Cardiff, Newport, Bournemouth and Plymouth.

Air-Raid Precaution Wardens and Fire Watchers, both men and women, coped with a deluge of thousands of incendiary bombs, often preventing the raiders from finding their targets in many parts of the City. Of these brave wardens 19 men, 3 women and 2 messengers lost their lives. Other citizens, even children, bravely extinguished incendiary bombs which had fallen upon homes, churches and other valuable properties.

At the centre the communication services of the A.R.P. functioned efficiently during the early stages of the raid. Reports came in from all the depots promptly, followed by action. But when the lighting failed the wardens and their staff were greatly handicapped. Graver danger soon threatened when fires spread from Union Street to premises adjacent to the A.R.P. Central Control. When the relentless flames quickly set a part of the Control ablaze a section of the staff was sent to the Emergency Control. Just as the remainder were about to set out a message was received that the fire at the Museum had spread to the University and that water in the basement was already inches deep. Faced with a terrible alternative, the A.R.P. Control bravely carried on at Central Control for over an hour, although the back and upper part of the building was in flames. With coolness and courage they held on at their post of duty. One girl telephonist answered an enquiry and then added with a cheery voice, "I'm afraid I can't say any more now. The flames are all around me!" Evacuation became inevitable. Then they made a hasty transfer in private cars and on foot through the streets of their burning and bombed city to the City Engineer's Office in Queen Square. There they functioned with improvised equipment and restricted accommodation through the remainder of the night.

The presence of many unexploded bombs presented a grave menace in many parts of the City. Many suspected unexploded bombs were reported to the Central A.R.P. Control. Representatives of the City Engineer's Department and Sappers loaned by the C.R.E. inspected every such bomb. This examination revealed the actual unexploded bombs which were reported to the Bomb Disposal Unit, whose hazardous work in dealing with these live bombs won the highest admiration.

Rescue parties aided by many volunteers worked with superhuman energy in their life-saving efforts. They worked throughout the night of terror at high

pressure and were called to 86 occurrences, from which 137 citizens were rescued and some bodies recovered. Age and youth, male and female, vied with each other in their new-found heroism. It is on record that boys associated with the Bristol and District Federation of Boys' Clubs gave remarkable help in rescuing trapped people. Ambulance drivers and workers (two of whom were killed), drivers of mobile canteens, youthful dispatch riders and boy messengers served valiantly, often making their way through fire and water amidst falling bombs.

The medical, hospital and nursing staffs, and those in charge of first-aid posts rendered speedy and efficient aid to the casualties. Operations were performed within range of the sound of high explosives with calm surgical skill. Nurses with tender care gave physical comfort with smiling faces. The voluntary workers at the hostels provided food and shelter for those who were homeless through fire, destruction, or the menace of unexploded bombs. This task was made the more difficult as the control centre at St. Peter's Hospital was burnt out and with it was destroyed the scheme of operations. The blanket stock was destroyed, but by the following night 1,500 replacements had been obtained, which were increased to 3,700 within 48 hours.

The Police Force and Special Constables were on duty all night with bombs dropping around them and many members of the Force were at work in the streets for twenty-four hours on end. They maintained the highest traditions of the Police Force.

Many citizens in other categories of service displayed heroic conduct in the City's defensive measures to combat the first Blitzkrieg.

Mercifully, the casualties of that night, though heavy, were far below the number anticipated, and this was largely due to the centre of the City being less frequented on a Sunday than on business days. The hospitals received 187 severe casualties and 703 were reported slightly injured.

The Utility Services were greatly dislocated. In wide areas of the City the water supply was either totally cut off or at such low pressure that the higher levels could not be normally supplied. Water carts, both civic and military, conveyed adequate supplies for domestic use. Gas, electricity and the telephone system failed over many parts of the City. Dislocation of the sewerage system presented a difficult problem. A large number of unexploded bombs added to the difficulties of complete and prompt restoration of these public amenities. But with surprising promptitude the "severed arteries" were restored. Efficient assistance was given to Bristol's reserve of labour by gangs from other towns and by the military forces. The Royal Engineers and Infantry rendered valuable help in demolition of dangerous ruins, site and street clearance, traffic control and diversion and first-aid repairs to houses. Within a few days 2,000 men were engaged in repairs on a large number of the 10,000 houses damaged in the raid.

The centre of the City bore the brunt of the attack, but no part entirely escaped damage. There were many homeless in every division, and the Bedminster, Clifton, Knowle and St. George areas were heavily attacked. It is difficult to estimate the number of bombs which fell. The German communique stated that there were 300 tons of H.E. and 10,000 I.B.'s. This is probably the usual exaggeration and a more conservative estimate would be about 1,000 H.E.'s and 5,000 I.B.'s. The attack was made by probably 60 hostile machines in waves of two or three at regular intervals.

The "City of Churches" had in one night become the city of ruins. In the most heavily bombed area entire streets were completely devastated, whilst in other streets wide gaping wounds showed isolated premises which had miraculously escaped destruction. Wine Street, held by many to be the most valuable shopping street in the provinces, was reduced to a mass of rubble and twisted girders, with here and there high party-walls tottering, until brought down by the demolition squad. Its counterpart, Castle Street, built on the site of Bristol's Norman Castle precincts suffered almost as completely. The business streets which were entirely or partly destroyed in the centre of the City included: Baldwin Street, Barrs Street, Bridge Street, Broadmead, Dolphin Street, High Street, Marsh Street, Mary-le-Port Street, Queen Charlotte Street, Narrow Wine Street, Nicholas Street, Stokes Croft and the Barton, St. Peter's Street and Union Street. Severely damaged shopping streets in other districts were College Green, Park Street, Queen's Road, Redcliff Street, Thomas Street and Victoria Street.

Many historic buildings and architectural treasures were destroyed. The loss of St. Peter's Hospital leaves an irreparable gap in Bristol's historical associations with the middle ages. This house dated from the fifteenth century and was a superb example of mediaeval architecture. In its long history it had been used as a merchant's dwelling, a Royal Mint, the first sugar refinery in England, and in recent years as the administrative buildings for the Poor Law and Public Assistance.

Only a passing reference is possible to the many other instances of destruction. The Old Dutch House, a black and white half-timbered house (a galleon in a modern port), was reputed to have been brought from Amsterdam in the time of William III (c. A.D. 1700). The Museum was a total loss; the Art Gallery received much damage, and a portion of the University buildings, including the beautiful Great Hall, was destroyed by fire. The Prince's Theatre and the Upper Arcade were obliterated and heavy blows were aimed at the railway.

Some twelve churches were built in Norman times on sites in the ancient area of the City. Although rebuilt during the intervening centuries about nine still stood on the original sites, with Norman architectural features remaining in a few of these churches. Three were destroyed. St. Peter's, adjacent to St. Peter's Hospital, was burned to a hollow shell, but its Norman tower with walls many feet in thickness stands as a testimony to the Norman masons' craft. At St. Nicholas Church the curfew was rung from the steeple until the outbreak of war. The bells have fallen but the tower and steeple remain erect. The crypt (A.D. 1503) has sheltered many thousands during raids and is now adapted for public worship. St. Mary-le-Port Church, obscured by the shops built against its walls, was destroyed and its ancient peal of bells brought to the ground. Temple Church, to which the Knights Templars gave their name, was completely gutted with its lovely Weavers' Chapel, dedicated to their patron saint Catherine. The Leaning Tower (A.D. 1145), almost four feet out of the perpendicular, remains as a monumental testimony of 800 years. Several modern churches shared a similar fate, including St. Anselm, Clifton Parish Church, and Holy Nativity at Knowle.

Educational institutions did not escape. Eight Council Schools and the Preparatory Department of the Grammar School were demolished. Many large industrial premises and factories, printers' works of national repute, cinemas, hostelrys, stores and warehouses were reduced to ruins. Dr. White's almshouses in Temple Street and similar houses in North Street, Long Row, and King Street



*Thumbs Up!
Children leave for Devon and safety.*



Christmas Party, 1940.



His Majesty the King thanks the Matrons and Hospital Staffs.



Her Majesty Queen Mary at the Cathedral with the Bishop of Bristol, the Dean of Bristol, the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress.

were destroyed, as well as Georgian houses in Berkeley Square and Charlotte Street.

General Sir Hugh Elles, the Regional Commissioner, paid a high tribute to the fine work of all the services. He said Bristol had risen nobly to the occasion ; there was no wringing of hands or lamentations, all got straight down to the effective business of the day.

The Prime Minister paid his tribute to the courage of Bristolians in the following letter to the Lord Mayor :

“ 10 Downing Street.

“ My Lord Mayor,

“ My thoughts have been much with the inhabitants of Bristol in the ordeal of these last weeks.

“ As Chancellor of the University, I feel myself united to them and I have heard with pride of the courage, resolution and patience with which they have answered these detestable attacks on their families and their homes.

“ It is the spirit such as theirs which makes certain the victory of our cause.

“ Yours very faithfully,

“ WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.”

At the next meeting of the City Council the Lord Mayor expressed their sympathy with bereaved citizens in the following terms :

“ We meet to-day under the shadow of the great bereavement of our citizens who have lost their loved ones by enemy action upon this City. Those who have fallen have paid the supreme sacrifice for the honour of their City. Bravely did these valiant hearts bear themselves. Many heroes fell in the act of duty and service for their fellow men, with no thought of self, but bravely carrying on their work of protection and rescue. Parents and children united in family life were in death not divided. Innocent children were massacred, as of old, at the feet of tyranny. To the honour and sacred memory of them all we bow our heads to-day in loving gratitude. ‘ From the rising of the sun till the going down of the same we will remember them.’

“ To those relatives and friends who mourn their loss, on behalf of this Council and our City, I express our sincerest sympathy. To them I would say, ‘ Side by side with you we mourn your loss and share your sorrow. We pray that in this hour of your great need an abundance of God’s gracious love and mercy may be vouchsafed to you and give you comfort. Your City owes your loved ones and you a debt of gratitude which can never be fully paid. We will honour them and you by every endeavour to be worthy of the sacrifice they have made.’

“ Our praise cannot be too high, our gratitude cannot be too deep, our love cannot be too abounding, our practical sympathy and help cannot be too generous. In your name, ladies and gentlemen, I propose this resolution which will stand on the records of the Council of this great City at this time :

“ ‘ That the Council desire to record their sincere appreciation of the unflinching devotion to duty and of the courage displayed by those members of the defence services of the City who unfortunately lost their lives during the enemy air raids, and to express to the relatives their heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement. The Council also desire to record their sincere appreciation of the high courage displayed by citizens, and to express to the relatives of those citizens who were killed

during the raids their deep sympathy with them in their bereavement. The Council also express to all those who have been injured their earnest hope for a speedy recovery.'

"I know that you are in accord with this resolution, and I ask you to stand in sympathy."

The Council then stood in silent tribute.

At the same session of the City Council civic praise and thanks were extended to all the services in the following resolution proposed by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor F. A. Parish, C.B.E., Chairman of the Emergency Committee. The archives of Bristol with their records of the ancient history of this City, the charters of the thirteenth century and the like—will have no more treasured record than these words: "The City Council desire to record their admiration and appreciation of the efficient services rendered by the officers and whole-time and part-time personnel of the Air-Raid Precautions and Auxiliary Fire Services, members of the voluntary and religious organizations, officers and men of H.M. Forces, staffs of the various hospitals, staffs and employees of the utility undertakings, the personnel loaned to the City by other authorities, officers and employees of the Corporation, and the many other voluntary helpers during recent air raids.

"The efficient organization and splendid service rendered undoubtedly saved the City from much greater destruction and distress, and the Council feel they cannot express too highly their grateful thanks and that of the citizens generally for the devotion to duty and the courage displayed by all concerned."

"BRISTOL AFIRE."

This graphic description of Bristol's air raids was written in verse of genuine merit by Stanley Saunders, a fire-watcher at the Bristol Council House, situate in the heart of the City. He knew the sorrow of a home despoiled by a German bomb which gave added point to his pen:

"I saw a city gay with lights and laughter,
Rich with the relics of a thousand years,
Dreaming itself secure from all disaster,
Aloof, as ever, from war's blood and tears.

"Tall towered churches with their tuneful chiming,
Slim lofty steeples piercing heaven's blue;
O'erhanging houses where, through shadows shining,
Windows of wonder set earth's wealth in view.

"I saw that city in deep darkness sleeping,
Shocked to awareness of a war drawn nigh.
Awake! Awake! the planes o'erhead are screaming;
Their baleful flares drift slowly down the sky.

"Then on that city dreadful death descended,
Showered incendiaries and earth-rocking sound,
While buildings toppled, and to sky ascended
Swift tongues of flame that lit the earth around.

"The crash of bombs and walls and girders falling,
The mighty roaring of unfettered flame,
The cries of people for assistance calling,
Formed an orchestra for a deed of shame.

" I saw a city with no lights nor laughter,
Shorn of its relics of a thousand years.
I saw, through silent sorrows and disaster,
A new adventure shining through men's tears.

" To build afresh more truly and more splendid,
Where light and colour, space and flowers combine
To make the best of Past and Future blended,
And of heroic souls a fitting shrine."

THE WINTER OF RAIDS

THE first great raid of the 24th of November was followed by a long series of 29 raids of varying degree until the final raid on the 5th of July. Inclusive of the first raid there were nine blitzes classed as major raids, if a casualty list of 100 be taken as the datum line. The remaining 21 raids involved a range of casualties from nil to one hundred. The total killed in all the 30 raids was little more than 1,000, with a similar number severely injured and rather more slightly injured. A detailed description of each major blitz would involve much repetition, therefore, a composite résumé of the 29 raids may give the more accurate impression of the cumulative effect of those six months of continual attacks upon this City.

With the march of time the enemy extended the area of attack until no part of the City had escaped serious damage. The high explosive bombs increased in calibre and incendiaries grew in power. It is estimated from local observations and German claims that 10,000 high explosive and 100,000 incendiary bombs were showered upon Bristol during this period. The duration of a raid extended over more prolonged hours, the longest major raid lasting from 6.21 p.m. until 6.21 a.m., with heavy bombs of 250 kg. dropped throughout the twelve hours. One minor raid lasted nearly thirteen hours. Introductory flares increased in intensity until in one minor raid the whole City was lit up by chandelier flares, of which there were no less than fifteen in the air at one time. Strangely enough, that night the defences achieved their greatest success. The anti-aircraft guns drove the enemy from the target without release of his H.E. bombs and the A.A. barrage brought down two planes, to which fighter planes added two more. The result of that effective resistance was reflected in the small number of only three fatal casualties in that raid. The enemy aircraft numbered from about forty to one hundred in the heavier raids, releasing probably 700 to 800 high explosive bombs and several thousand incendiaries. On two occasions a lone bomber machine-gunned at a low level of 600 feet, giving tip-and-run exhibitions.

The railway system was frequently the enemy's main objective. The Germans on one occasion officially claimed they had bombed the docks at Bristol with good effect, and issued the following communique :

" Berlin, Sunday.

" Last night strong German bomber formations attacked the industrial and harbour installations of Avonmouth, on the Bristol Channel. This operation was carried out with great success. A number of small and large fires were caused."

In the earliest stages of one attack showers of incendiary bombs started many

fires which were speedily extinguished with the aid of military forces and caused small damage owing to the effective use of sand by the defenders. In the later stages waves of planes dropped high explosives, causing considerable damage to offices, sheds, business premises, and garages. In comparison with the violence of the attack the fatality list of six was considered light. Attempts to wreck the transport system with direct hits in more than one attack blocked the permanent way, struck platforms and caused fires in a block of station buildings. Heavy casualties resulted when an engine and two occupied coaches were struck. Mails and parcels were destroyed with three burned coaches. The rear coach of a train was hit. Damage to the track was recorded in the neighbourhood.

The Fire Services continued their heroic work fighting fires, numerous, and often very extensive. In one raid 55 outbreaks in the first hour increased to 167 during the attack. To cope with this stupendous task 55 brigades with their appliances and personnel were brought in from outside authorities in the West of England. The pumps used numbered 409 and 1,518 firemen were engaged, of whom two sacrificed their lives. The water supply was supplemented from lakes, dams and the River Frome by a relay system. Voluntary street fire-parties rendered effective service by preventing outbreaks in many raids. An Auxiliary Fire Service man was killed and five others injured when an Auxiliary Fire Station received a direct hit. The watchers, men, women and youths, stood up well to their dangers; several paid the supreme sacrifice.

Again and again the Air-Raid Precaution Wardens suffered losses in men and equipment, but continued valiantly to serve their fellow citizens, although often handicapped by their Control being cut off from water, gas and electricity supplies. One large calibre bomb destroyed a Wardens' Post at Dean Street in the St. Paul's area. Thirteen wardens were buried under the debris. At one Control seven high explosives fell in front and four in the rear of the building, which was heavily damaged, but the staff carried on in the map room. They escaped with three minor injuries.

The full story of the rescue parties will never be told. Many brave deeds were known only to the few participants. The recorded incidents reveal that in one raid alone rescue parties were called to 66 occurrences where they rescued 135 persons alive and recovered many bodies. In another raid their work of rescue involved action at 35 recorded incidents. Often the parties worked feverishly to rescue trapped people, from whom cries for help could be heard. One party tunnelled a ten-foot cutting through the basement wall of a house, and another made a fifteen-foot cutting into a basement from the side of a crater. Often victims were reached by cuts through party walls. Victims were found blown to roofs of adjoining properties. Other citizens, too, gave trojan assistance. In one instance, two men, one a soldier, fought their way down through the wreckage of a house for five hours because they thought all the occupants would not be dead. In the early morning hours they brought out alive a woman and small boy whose lives had been saved by a brave man throwing himself upon them when the bomb fell. At some major occurrences rescue parties were fully occupied for several days recovering trapped persons and the bodies of victims. The total destruction of the quarters of the Y.W.C.A. in Berkeley Square and of other premises in High Street were notable instances. The rescuers themselves were not immune from danger as was shown at Bath Buildings where, during

the rescue of three trapped persons, the rescue party was gassed and two were taken to the hospital.

Many awards of George Medals, British Empire Medals and Commendations have been made to men and women who gave conspicuously gallant services in the Civil Defence of their City.

The Utility Services were seriously dislocated by the major raids. Ambulance and canteen transport, street traffic, fire-fighting, rescue work, clearance, repairs and demolition were all impeded. Over wide areas the water supply was put out of action and after the longest raid of twelve hours the restoration of the water-supply system to normal pressure at high levels of the City occupied four days. On several occasions 50 or more mains were fractured. The gas, electricity and telephone services suffered heavy blows.

Both Public and Anderson shelters stood well against the blasts, but a few direct hits took a heavy toll of life. A public shelter near St. Gabriel's Road, built partly underground, with accommodation for 150 persons was directly hit and demolished with a loss of some lives. An Anderson shelter was torn out of the ground and its six inmates perished. There were many remarkable escapes by those sheltering in Andersons quite close to the craters of high explosive bombs.

The disposal of the unexploded bomb continued to be a hazardous duty. The system adopted was to insert between the bomb itself and the Bomb Disposal Squad a team of volunteers, known as "Bomb Smellers," who visited sites and decided whether the reported bombs were really unexploded ones. Their reports usually reduced the number by half, to be then dealt with by the Disposal Squad. Many live bombs were adjacent to vulnerable points such as hospitals, trunk water mains, gasometers, or action depots.

Appalling destruction befell the homes of the people. First-aid repairs to damaged houses were speedily in hand. Men were on the work by eight o'clock on the morning following a raid. The Housing Department of the City Council put into operation their well-planned scheme, under which panels of building contractors immediately commenced repairs in the division of the City allocated to them. The six items of first-aid to houses were operated in the order of urgency—roofs, windows, doors, debris, plaster and ceilings and services. Dumps were opened all over the City where felt, laths, nails and transparent material were given away to people to enable them to cover up their windows. Within fourteen days all houses repairable by first-aid were made wind and water-tight.

Houses numbering 2,259 were destroyed and 46,000 received varying degrees of damage. No part of the City, with its area of forty square miles, escaped scathless. Small tenements and the Bishop's Palace were alike consumed by fire. Institutions fell. In one, the Eventide Home, Jamaica Street, the fall carried eleven inmates to death. Business premises, great and small, with all their stores and equipment, went down in a few hours, wiping out many an industry and business built up during a hundred years or more of efficient development.

Many raid victims were laid to rest in large communal graves in Greenbank Cemetery, where after each major raid during those winter months a funeral service was held at the graveside, usually in the early morning mist. Civilians and Civil Defence Workers who had fallen victims to the Nazi bombing were placed to rest side by side amidst the expressions of a silent sympathy, more

expressive than the spoken word. Father, mother, child, brother, sister, in one great family, accompanied by the Lord Mayor and members of the Civil Defence Organizations gathered there on the brink of the collective tomb in one great company of sorrow. Never were messages of sympathy and comfort more sincerely expressed than those conveyed in subdued tones on these sad occasions.

The leaders of the Churches led united prayer. On the various occasions there were present the Bishop of Bristol (Dr. C. S. Woodward), the Bishop of Clifton (the Rt. Rev. William Lee), the Dean of Bristol (the Very Rev. H. W. Blackburne, D.S.O., M.C., M.A.), the President of the Bristol Free Church Council (the Rev. J. H. Squire, B.A., B.D.), supported by other ministers. In one of the brief addresses given at the close, the Bishop of Bristol said, "Those who have lost their lives in these air raids have died upon the battlefield even as the soldier. Those who have died have given their lives for the country. You who have lost your loved ones have the sympathy of your fellow-citizens in this hour of sorrow and trouble. Those who know what it is to have lost loved ones very suddenly also know what is in your hearts and minds to-day." A Union Jack placed at the graveside stirred in the slight breeze as the Bishop added: "There is no death. They are not lying in this grave in which their bodies have been placed, but have passed into another world of which we know little."

Public buildings continued to pay their toll. In one night four were severely damaged—the Council House, one of the Assize Courts, the Corn Exchange and the General Post Office. A trio suffered together in another raid—the Chamber of Commerce, the City Treasurer's Office, and the Guildhall, used as the offices of the Education Authority. Amongst other public buildings wholly or partly destroyed were: Cheltenham Road Public Library, Colston Girls' School, several cinemas, twenty-two elementary schools, a Theological College, offices of the City Engineer and Medical Officer of Health in Prince Street, and the Merchants' Hall.

The Church of England lost, altogether, eighteen churches, nearly one fourth of those in the City. The Cathedral narrowly escaped heavy bombs, but much ancient glass was destroyed. The "fairest" of all parish churches in England, St. Mary Redcliffe, with devastation on all sides, escaped with small damage to some masonry, a great testimony to the enthusiastic band of fire-watchers who dealt with many incendiaries which fell upon their historic church. Amongst the churches lost must be added All Saints' Clifton, St. Augustine's, Avonmouth Church, St. Barnabas (where from the directly hit crypt shelter fifteen bodies were taken), St. Clement's, St. Francis, Holy Trinity Hotwells, St. Michael's and St. Paul's Bedminster (where in the last two named hundreds were sheltering in the crypts and were taken out without loss of life), St. John's Bedminster and St. Silas.

The Free Churches suffered destruction of their places of worship in a similar degree. The Congregationalists lost Brunswick Square, Redland Park, and Sneyd Park Churches; the Baptists, Cotham Grove and Tyndale Churches; the Methodists, Churches at Fishponds, Langton Street, Redcliff Crescent and Speedwell. The Presbyterian Church at St. James was totally destroyed.

The Emergency Committee for Civil Defence was elected by the City Council when the war clouds threatened, and was invested with full statutory powers to deal with all matters arising from war conditions other than business normally

dealt with by the Standing and Special Committees of the Council. The members of the Emergency Committee were : Councillor F. A. Parish, C.B.E. (Chairman), Councillor A. H. Downes-Shaw (Vice-Chairman), Alderman A. W. Cox and Alderman Sir J. H. Inskip, K.B.E. These trusted City leaders, with the Town Clerk, Mr. Josiah Green, met continuously over the war period, dealing in the early stages with the many problems of the organization of the City's resources for Civil Defence. When the greater emergencies fell upon the City, with the disruption brought about by each air raid, the committee met in full session for days on end, with the Lord Mayor, the chief officers of all civic departments, the representatives of the Naval, Military and Air Forces, the key men of the Utility Services, and other experts whose information and advice were necessary. Amongst them Mr. H. M. Webb, O.B.E., the City Engineer, gave conspicuous service. General Sir Hugh Elles, the Regional Commissioner and Major-General G. M. Lindsay, his deputy, were also in attendance.

This gathering of experts received reports of the air-raid damage and the steps to be taken for the restoration of the daily life and routine of the City. Both in those sudden emergencies and in the problems arising for the restoration and maintenance of the economic and social life of the people, the Emergency Committee made prompt and effective decisions. The co-ordination of the City's Civil Defence was speedily put into operation. To these men, working without the glamour of publicity, the citizens owe a debt of gratitude for their intensive and prolonged application to their heavy task. The Lord Mayor was greatly impressed by the team work shown on all occasions at those emergency meetings.

Bristol was well served at home and abroad by the local press. Many Bristolians in other lands were kept fully informed of events in their native city by the circulation of the Bristol newspapers and many reports and news items were reproduced in the press of the United States and the British Commonwealth. Whilst playing their part right well during the period of air raids and the attendant difficulties they were in two instances temporarily put out of action. The *Western Daily Press* continued publication during one brief period from the offices of the *Evening World* and on one day from the printing press of a friendly journal in Bath. The premises of the *Evening World* were heavily damaged, but publication was continued in co-operation with the *Evening Post*; which fortunately escaped serious dislocation.

THE CITY'S EMERGENCY HOSTELS

HEAVY calls were made upon the resources of the City's Social and Defence Services both during and after each raid by the enemy. Firemen, A.R.P. Wardens, Medical Staff and hosts of official workers performed deeds of self-sacrifice and effective service which constitute a story for the chronicler of Bristol's Annals. But these pages would be incomplete without reference to the great social work accomplished by the Hostels. In 1939 the City Council asked religious organizations and voluntary helpers to collaborate and to undertake the care of people whose homes were rendered unusable as the result of air raids. Under the inspiring leadership of the Dean of Bristol, the Very Rev. H. W. Blackburne, a committee of clergy and members of all religious denominations was set up and authorized to act as the agents of the Social Welfare Committee of the City Council. This new body, the Voluntary Hostel Committee, had the task of making provision

for people rendered destitute and homeless by air raids, and of providing temporary homes for de-housed persons for 48 hours, with Government financial assistance to the City Council to meet the cost. The Dean's Committee selected church halls and schools, and contacted A.R.P. Wardens and police with full lists of Hostels for the homeless or those who would be compelled to leave an area on account of extensive bombardment. These Hostels were equipped by the Social Welfare Committee. Of the 77 halls and schools earmarked as Hostels, 30 were known as Reception Hostels, equipped with emergency rations, comfortably heated and always ready for immediate occupation. To the other 47, allocated as Sleeping Hostels, homeless people were transferred within a few hours, so clearing the Reception Hostels for use in case of further emergency.

This scheme was an original plan and this City was one of the first in England to prepare so efficiently the havens of rest for those who might be called upon to take refuge during the onslaughts upon their homes and City. The first storm broke upon the City on the night of 24th November. The Hostels and their voluntary staffs gave great service that night to hundreds of homeless and bereaved men, women and children. Each day following brought its problems of salvage from ruined houses, search for friends, the collection of a few articles for a new home and the recovery from shock and sorrow, the return to the factory, office or school. At every point guidance, sympathy and help awaited them at the ministering hands of the Dean and his gallant bands of volunteers, supported by the officials of the Government Assistance Board and the Corporation Officers under the leadership of Mr. T. S. Lamb and Mr. L. Stone.

When bombardment followed bombardment at intervals of some days, the Hostels and their voluntary workers again and again functioned. The magnitude of this humane service is shown very inadequately by figures, although these speak very forcibly. No less than 207,994 meals were provided and 1,247 families, with a total of 5,775 persons, were re-housed. This great achievement was expedited by the Information Bureaux opened at a number of selected Reception Hostels in areas affected more intensively by enemy action. Here the combined co-operation of the Assistance Board, the City Housing Manager, the Billeting Officer, officers of other public departments, the British Red Cross Society, and the Women's Voluntary Services joined with the voluntary workers to deal effectively with every detail in this great task.

The Dean of Bristol and his team earned and received the warm praise of the Social Welfare Committee of the City Council, expressed by the Director, Mr. T. S. Lamb. The Lord Mayor thanked the Dean and the Hostel workers in a letter which was posted in every Hostel in these terms: "On behalf of the citizens of Bristol I express to all the helpers at our Reception Centres and Hostels our sincere and hearty thanks for your splendid services to all those who came under your care during our recent trouble. Your work, your cheerfulness and loving attention to our homeless men, women and children will always be remembered as an outstanding service of which our City may well be proud."

THE STORY OF THE HOSPITALS

BRISTOL is well served by an efficient Hospital system. The largest voluntary Hospitals are the Royal Infirmary, the General Hospital and the Children's Hospital, with the Cossham Memorial Hospital in the Kingswood area. The Southmead



His Majesty the King in the ruins of Wine Street.



The Prime Minister, with Mr. Menzies and Mr. Winant, outside the University—Easter Saturday, 1941. [See page 46.



H.R.H. the late Duke of Kent, with the Regional Commissioner, General Sir Hugh Elles.

Hospital was established and is maintained by the Health Department of the City Corporation. Winford Orthopaedic Hospital is situated in Somerset, about five miles south of the City. Specialist treatment is given at the Homoeopathic and Eye Hospitals. The Ham Green Hospital and Sanatorium also in the County of Somerset is used by the City Corporation for isolation cases. All these institutions rendered conspicuous service for those severely injured through enemy action.

Civilians treated in the Hospitals and listed as seriously injured included many men, women and children. To these were added men of the Services who met with serious injury whilst in discharge of their duties. A glimpse at a few incidents which occurred at these institutions gives some inkling of the stress and strain borne by the staffs during the period of the major raids upon this City.

The Bristol General Hospital suffered much damage, but not a single patient nor a member of the staff was seriously injured, which was a great consolation considering the damage sustained by the building. During the period of heavy attacks upon the City many high explosive bombs were dropped in close proximity to the Hospital, shattering windows and blowing the doors to pieces. On 2nd December many heavy calibre bombs fell within 50 yards of the buildings, blew in most of the windows and threw masses of mud and debris into the wards and rooms adjoining. Fortunately all the patients had previously been moved to the basement shelter before the electric current, water and gas supplies failed. The weather was bitterly cold at this time and the conditions prevailing inside the Hospital were dreadful, but the staff gallantly carried on and saw to the safe evacuation of the patients. Weeks elapsed before temporary repairs could be effected to allow the wards to be used again, but the casualty and out-patient services were not interrupted.

No sooner had the Hospital commenced to function again when, during an intensive raid in January, a serious fire occurred through quantities of incendiary bombs, 16 in one tray, falling on the roof. The staff and members of the Auxiliary Fire Service stationed at the Hospital were unable to deal with this before the night nurses' and the maids' quarters on the top floor were furiously blazing. The fire rapidly spread to the tower, the dome of which was destroyed, together with the contents of the night nurses' and the maids' rooms and three wards below. At the same time high explosive bombs were dropped close at hand and the blast from these caused still more damage. There was a good supply of water available, pumped from the dock by motor pumps, and it was solely due to this that the Hospital was saved from complete destruction.

The conditions prevailing in the Hospital during the fire and for some time afterwards were well-nigh beyond description. Water and filth cascaded down staircases, lift-shafts and air ducts and through ceilings. Water was everywhere.

The staff was wonderful and stood bravely up to the difficulties and dangers. The Matron, Miss A. C. Robins, has since been awarded the O.B.E. for the noble example she set to her staff throughout. Naturally it took some time to recover from this onslaught in the damp and sour atmosphere which prevailed, but all stuck to it in spite of the absence of electricity or gas for days.

An underground operating theatre unit was provided later, where the surgeons worked in comparative safety, with wards adjoining for air-raid casualties. This accommodation proved of inestimable value during subsequent air raids and enabled the Hospital to carry on its work despite the damage it had sustained.

The Children's Hospital received extensive damage as the result of a stick of bombs falling across the building, the out-patient department and the Nurses' Home. One very large bomb fell in the garden, tore off the tiles, broke down the doors, and smashed nearly all the glass in the windows. The electric light was extinguished, as were the emergency lights, the night lights and hurricane lamps, plunging the whole building in total darkness. In the midst of all this damage, with the plaster falling from the ceilings and the crashing of falling masonry all the patients were evacuated without a single casualty and taken to another Hospital.

The corridors were a mass of broken glass, plaster and debris, over which the children had to be carried, while bombs constantly exploded nearby. Many times both nurse and patient had to lie on the ground to avoid blast, the nurse covering the child with her body. All this was done in complete darkness. The behaviour of the Matron, Miss G. R. Ellis, and nurses was beyond all praise, and they have been presented with a framed appreciation by the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Committee.

The next day about thirty soldiers were sent to the Hospital to help clear away the tremendous quantity of debris, which included not only broken masonry but an immense quantity of soil and clay thrown up by the explosion. These men worked for days in an endeavour to get the wards, corridors and out-patient departments free of rubbish. In addition, the City Engineer sent a large number of workmen to undertake first-aid repairs to the building. The damage was so extensive that it took nearly three months to get the Hospital into a condition to receive patients. The out-patient department was so damaged by a direct hit, that it has been abandoned for this purpose.

The Nurses' Home also received a direct hit, the bomb falling into a 500-gallon water tank under the roof. This tank, which is one of several, was destroyed, but it caused the explosion to be upward, tearing off the tiles, smashing windows and tearing off the plaster. It was simply miraculous that with all this destruction there were no casualties. It seemed hopeless to get the Hospital into order again, but by the united efforts of the City, soldiers and the staff themselves this was achieved, and the Bristol Children's Hospital resumed its work of treating boys and girls who were ill.

The Southmead Hospital escaped heavy damage by near misses of bombs. A parachute with a basket of incendiaries was sighted in its descent. By skilful operation of the staff, the threatened conflagration was averted and the parachute salvaged intact as a souvenir. The fabric was of white artificial silk, beautifully made, with its markings of German manufacture, cords, loops and rings all intact. In one raid high explosives fell. One was in close proximity to Dr. Phillips' residence, where groups of nurses were taking shelter. The sub-soil of the site is soft clay to a considerable depth. The bomb penetrated deeply and its explosion raised a huge blister or mound of unbroken turf. The clay, acting as a cushion, had absorbed the shock, disrupting the underground cables and pipes with no damage to the adjacent building or injury to the staff.

The reception of air-raid casualties was spread over 25 days and nights following the visits of the enemy over a period of six months. The casualties admitted were 410, the highest number on one day being 81. A wonderful spirit and great fortitude prevailed amongst all the patients, as in all the Hospitals. Sallies of humour often brightened the wards as the patients gained strength in

body and spirit. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Mr. C. H. W. Davey (the Sheriff of Bristol) and Mrs. Davey, on one occasion were greeting a young man of 20 years very ill with chest and ankle injuries. He brought smiles to all when he said chirpily to the Lady Mayoress, "I like your hat." Then the child from Australia, who declared he came from "down under," focussed the amused attention of the group around his cot upon the Lord Mayor whose name had been thus inverted. This brave little fellow had lost his father in Australia and his mother and grandmother were slain by the Nazis at Avonmouth. Now resident in Edinburgh, he writes regularly to his Ward Sister.

A young married couple had each lost a leg, amputated, but they were jolly and bright about it all. During their convalescence they playfully teased each other and laughed over the length of stump each had left.

A father and mother in separate wards had their five children, aged 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12, in an adjacent ward. They were a remarkable family and shed happiness around them. The four elder children sang solos and a chorus to the Lord Mayor. Their name was Plenty, an appropriate epithet where there was such an abundance of mutual love and happiness shown between parents and children.

At another visit two married ladies, sisters, in adjacent cots, greeted the Lord Mayor with charming smiles to reveal to him they were his former pupils. Fortunately the press photographer was awaiting his opportunity, so the cots were placed together and the Lord Mayor sat upon the bedside renewing old acquaintances whilst the camera recorded the re-union. These incidents may each appear to be trivial, but amidst the scenes in the Hospital such bright patches were turned to the best psychological use, as the hand-maiden to skilful surgery, under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Phillips and Miss E. Webber the Matron.

Attached to this Hospital is a Blood Transfusion Unit. Many lives were saved by this system. Altogether 530 pints of blood were transferred to 204 casualties in Bristol Hospitals. Of these, 227 pints of blood were used in Southmead Hospital for 82 patients. It is estimated that from 120 to 150 Bristol lives were saved through the operation of blood transfusion.

At the Cossham Memorial Hospital over 100 casualties were admitted from seven air raids and a large number of out-patients were also treated. The devotion to duty and the courage of the nursing personnel was an inspiration on all occasions. The patients displayed great fortitude, those less seriously injured cheering and helping their comrades. The injured from a particular factory were magnificent in spite of terrible injuries and burns and they literally would not take their plight seriously. One remarkable little patient was a child aged two-and-a-half years. Both her parents had been killed and she quickly became the mascot of the Hospital. On many occasions she was seen in the City escorted and being treated to tea by a member of the nursing staff off duty. The seriousness of her injuries was belied by the cheery piping voice and the sunny smile.

The Bristol Royal Infirmary received heavy air-raid damage; on different occasions windows and frames were blown away, steam mains, lifts and the lighting and power systems were put out of action, the mortuary, the mortuary chapel with its beautiful stained-glass windows, the Calorifier House machinery, the out-patients department, the pathological, fracture and massage departments were all seriously damaged with their valuable contents. High explosives caused the evacuation of the Nurses' Home. The estimated cost of the damage exceeded

£20,000, yet the Hospital functioned effectively and the staff bravely carried on amidst the dangers and under the grave handicaps to their life-saving work. About 500 casualties were admitted and well over that number of out-patients were dealt with. In addition, patients were received from the Eye Hospital which was evacuated when threatened by surrounding fires ; 50 more patients were admitted from the General Hospital when that was hit.

To provide for possible contingencies many patients were evacuated to the Royal West of England Sanatorium at Weston-super-Mare, the Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund Home at Kewstoke, and Eastern House School. Distributions of fracture and other patients were made to St. Martin's Hospital at Bath, and to the Winford Orthopaedic Hospital at Winford. St. Monica's Home gave up half their number of beds to replace those lost by the Bristol Royal Infirmary. In those evacuations ambulance drivers, voluntary drivers and owners of private cars gave splendid service.

In the absence of power one night the lifts were manned by volunteers until 3 a.m., when the Army Traffic Control arrived and took over the work of the already tired stretcher bearers. The staff worked by candle and torch light during one raid when all lights were fused. They were themselves fortified in their courage by the example of Auxiliary Fire Service men who came in as many as six times for dressings and went back to duty although their hands were badly burned.

In the later months of this tragic period America sent large quantities of clothing which was used for re-fitting families. Supplies of surgical instruments and other gifts from America replaced much of the destroyed equipment.

The Bristol Hospitals which received casualties were visited by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress a few days after each blitz. They stood by the bedside of over 1,000 citizens in their 36 visits to these Hospitals and whenever possible gave to each one a message of comfort and cheer, expressing the admiration of their fellow citizens for the courage the patients had displayed as casualties in the front line of the battle for liberty. Never was there one word of complaint from those brave men, women and children ; from their lips and their hearts came words of loving gratitude for the wonderful deeds of bravery, kindness and skill shown them in the time of their suffering. The Lord Mayor publicly testified on many occasions how deeply he had been affected by those bedside talks and how highly he appreciated the magnificent skill and integrity shown by all members of the Hospital Staffs in this City.

SYMPATHY FROM THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD

MESSAGES of sympathy were received from English-speaking people in all parts of the world. High tributes were paid to the courage and fortitude of the citizens and the "spirit of the people." Typical extracts from cables were :

"Inspired by faith, patriotism and courage, you have withstood the rain of death from the skies, illustrating once again that spiritual impulse is always greater than material things." (Premier of Victoria, Australia.)

The Mayor of Bristol, Connecticut, U.S.A., sent his "congratulations on splendid morale," and other civic messages flowed in from overseas.

The Mayor of Auckland, New Zealand, cabled :

"Their courage and endurance are wonderful and must surely be a source of inspiration to all the peoples of the world."

The message from the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, was :

"Such a spirit can never be defeated. Such bravery will have its victorious rewards."

Provincial Section, Nova Scotia, made historic reference :

"This Province has an historic connection with the City of Bristol, for from that City John Cabot sailed to initiate the beginnings of an Empire on this side of the Atlantic. You gave to us of your best in days long since past. We are endeavouring to return somewhat of our growing strength to-day."

The Mayor of Montreal wrote :

"I can assure you of my sincere admiration for the wonderful spirit that prevails."

The message from the Mayor of Vancouver was well-nigh prophetic :

"President Roosevelt is a great leader, but had it not been for the manner in which the citizens of Great Britain faced up to their desperate dangers, I doubt if even he could have carried his own people along with him in his determination to aid Britain."

The Town Council of York, Western Australia, paid tribute in these terms :

"Stand firm. We are praying with you for victory of our joint cause. Your courage and devotion claim our utmost admiration. While the mother country works and suffers her children are at hand. They will strive and toil untiringly to ensure that victory will be ours. God bless you all."

From the Far West the Prime Minister of British Columbia pledged support :

"I wish to assure you that the good people of Bristol have the sympathy and admiration of all the citizens of British Columbia. We shall be with you until victory is won."

The world's Press gave like commendations of which these are a few selections :

"Here is a nation standing with God against the forces of evil, forces that would trample Christianity under foot. Here is something for us here in America to heed." (U.S.A.)

"The whole world is astounded at the courage, fortitude and endurance of the people of Bristol in withstanding the frightful blows of the bombers." (Canada.)

"Bristol, the target of the week's fiercest night raids, is beating the bombers and carrying on with toughened morale." (South Africa.)

Many American newspapers carried headlines which featured Bristol's courage and many devoted leading articles to the subject.

GIFTS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN dollars quickly followed American messages of sympathy. Organized collections were made in many townships, often initiated by the Mayors. Societies such as the Namesake Towns Committee and Bundles for Britain made

substantial contributions. The numerous towns named Bristol were often in the van-guard of practical sympathy. Many Americans with personal or family associations with Bristol made generous gifts, usually accompanied by letters of enquiry about the welfare of friends, or the safety of such architectural treasures as St. Peter's Hospital and Redcliffe Church. The total received in hard cash from the United States exceeded £10,000, augmented by substantial gifts of food and many bales of clothing.

The coping stone was placed on this edifice of goodwill by the gift of £6,250 from the British War Relief Society of the United States of America. On the 16th April the representative of this Society in Great Britain, Mr. B. de N. Cruger, handed a cheque to the Lord Mayor for this amount whilst standing amidst the ruins of Bristol's most famous shopping area. The Lord Mayor expressed Bristol's thanks in the following terms :

"On behalf of the people of this ancient City of Bristol I extend to you a cordial welcome. Our City has suffered greatly at the hands of the enemy. The centre of our City is almost totally devastated, several of our busiest trading streets are wiped out, many ancient historic and beautiful buildings, thousands of homes and many businesses and institutions are destroyed, but our people continue to maintain their courage.

"This handsome cheque for £6,250 you now present to me for Bristol's Air-Raid Distress Fund touches me very deeply indeed. Will you kindly convey to the British War Relief Society of America our grateful thanks for their generous contribution which greatly heartens and strengthens us? Many gifts have already reached me from individuals, societies, and namesake Bristol towns in America amounting to upwards of £3,000, all of which has already been spent in relief of our sufferers.

"I am greatly delighted that you, Mr. Cruger, are the worthy conveyer of this splendid gift, particularly as one of your forebears, Alderman Cruger, figures very prominently in the history of this City. Strangely enough he, too, was an American by birth. His great work here in Bristol resulted in his election to represent this City in Parliament in 1774, when he defeated the famous Edmund Burke. Alderman Cruger was M.P. for Bristol from 1774 to 1780, and again from 1784 to 1794. In 1781 he was elected Sheriff and in 1782 Mayor of Bristol and Master of the Merchant Venturers. At that critical period in our history Alderman Cruger 'spoke so ably in the House of Commons on American affairs as to be complimented by his party leaders.'

"It was his after-poll speech which became famous for the shortest address on record, 'I say ditto to Mr. Burke.' But this is possibly a historical myth, as it is on record that Alderman Cruger was an eloquent speaker. We have a portrait of your illustrious ancestor stored in our Archives. I will have a copy made which I shall be delighted to send to you.

"So, to-day sees a remarkable coincidence in that as our illustrious citizen's descendant, you, Sir, come to this same spot and present to our City this historic and handsome token of the great goodwill which exists between America and Bristol."

As a memento of his visit the Lord Mayor presented Mr. Cruger with a photographed reproduction from the annals of Bristol, which included a portrait of his

ancestor, the former Mayor of this City. This work was a beautiful specimen of the printer's art and was produced by the late Mr. Hawkins of the *Bristol Evening Post*.

Other societies which made substantial contributions included American Women's Hospitals, the English-speaking Union, and the New York Overseas League.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

THE contacts between Bristol and America are deeply rooted in the history of the past four centuries. Bristolians made history when, in 1497, a Bristol ship, the *Matthew*, manned by Bristol seamen under John Cabot, sailed from the heart of the City, discovered the great continent of America, and became the first Britishers to set foot upon its shores—an episode of which the Lord Mayor reminded Mr. John G. Winant when he arrived in Bristol, so appropriately reciprocal, to enter upon his illustrious position as U.S.A. Ambassador to Britain.

Unfortunately the Cabot records were almost entirely destroyed by fire in Bristol and Westminster many years ago, leaving scanty information of his personal associations. There still remains in the chancel of St. Mary Redcliffe Church the "Amerycke Brass," depicting in the costume of Cabot's days a man and a woman named Joan, the daughter of Cabot's friend, Richard Amerycke. The said Richard Amerycke was Sheriff of Bristol and he presented King Henry VII's gift of twenty pounds to Cabot—"to hym that found the new Isle." Based on this and other records, there is a belief amongst many that the continent of America was not named after the Venetian ship chandler, Amerigo Vespucci, a friend of Columbus, but after the Bristol Sheriff, Richard Amerycke.

BRISTOL TO BRISTOL—"VERMONT SPEAKING—"

DURING the past four centuries the spirit of the early pioneers, as exemplified by the Bristol Merchant Venturers, has been kept aflame both east and west of the Atlantic. To-day there are about a score of towns and districts in America named Bristol, and the Mother City is proud of her daughters and grateful for their benevolence and friendship. Bristol, Vermont, was early in the field with a donation of 700 dollars on 3rd February, 1941. This movement was sponsored by the Committee to "Defend America by Aiding the Allies." Mr. Merrit P. Allen wrote a broadcast message which Professor Lean, Dean of the University of Vermont (a former Bristol, England, boy) read for the broadcast to this country on 16th January. The reception of this message, to which the Lord Mayor listened in at the Mansion House, was punctuated by the crump of falling bombs from the Nazis and the bursting shells from the A.A. guns of the City's defences.

"When we here in Bristol, Vermont, U.S.A., were given an opportunity to send a radio greeting to you in Bristol, England, we decided to make the most of it. It was a grand idea, we said, 'to tell those gritty Britishers how we felt about them—the very thing we had been wanting to do for months.'

"Everyone in town hoped to send an individual message, but that was impossible because there are 1,832 of us here, so we appointed a committee to decide what should be said officially in the name of all of us. On that committee

were an electrician, an insurance agent, a farmer, a merchant, a professor, and a guy who writes for the newspapers. We met in a room around a wood-burning stove to pour our collective thoughts into words that would go winging and ringing three thousand miles across the Atlantic, each word a brilliant verbal meteor designed to dazzle our English cousins.

"Try as we would we could think of no high-sounding phrases, no epoch-making thoughts, no burning oratory, and we decided to tell you about our town in the language of our town."

(Here followed a description and history of Bristol, Vermont.)

"As we broadcast this we see, from what we have read and been told, a great city of 396,000 or more people, lying in a bowl-like valley some four miles in breadth. Here the Frome joins the Avon, and after a few miles they enter the Bristol Channel. We like the names of some of your streets—Broad, High, Corn, and Wine. They have a hearty, robust sound and they leave a good taste in the memory.

"We have heard a great deal about your beautiful old cathedral and your churches. The fame of your schools and colleges has also reached us, and we know you have magnificent public buildings and parks. Your docks and manufacturing plants are famous the world over. All told, we are very proud to be associated in name with the City of Bristol, England.

"Such associations are pleasant, but there is another that goes farther. It touches a deeper note in our friendship for you and it extends not from town to town but from nation to nation. We are thankful that in your hour of sore trial we sympathize with you. We are grateful that we can do this, for it shows that the poison of barbarism has not entered our veins and distorted our vision. In seeing eye to eye with you we find vindication of our hatred of the hideous forms of force that are battling to destroy what we believe is holy. We are the only democracies left, the only nations on earth where men and women can try to shape their destinies according to their ideals—that is, can try with any hope of success. These ideals of ours—liberty of speech and of action and of worship—are shared by millions of other people to whom they are only impossible dreams. Impossible at the moment, but not ultimately impossible if we can stop and crush the powers that oppose us. This is a crusade not to rescue the tombs of dead heroes, but to establish new sanctuaries for living men and women and children.

"No doubt many of you in England are saying 'Fine words, America, but it takes more than words to kill a dragon.' The time was when we, like you, thought that laurels won in the past were sufficient to insure the future, but that time is gone. The awful awakening that you suffered brought us to our feet. We are still rubbing our eyes, perhaps, but we are rolling up our sleeves. There is not an industry in our land that is not throwing in its every resource to build up our strength and yours. A few weeks ago seventeen millions of our young men willingly registered for military service. They were not bribed to do it, they were not lured by promises of booty, they were not driven by armed guards. They went because there is a feeling among them, as there is among you, that liberty is worth any price, even the price of life itself.

"As to those efforts of yours, will you pardon us if we praise you to your face? Here in America we have a wholehearted admiration for good sportsmanship. It is one of our idols. We know that its substance is courage, the courage to refrain

from fighting when provoked by a bully, and then, when forbearance is at an end, the courage to fight against tremendous odds. We have seen you do just that, and our admiration goes beyond our power of expression.

"Long before you entered this war we admired you for your efforts to avoid it. And when you did enter, because there was no alternative for free men, you did so fearlessly, ill armed though you were, because you had believed in peace to the last. When you were deserted by your allies we stood aghast, believing, yet unable to believe, that your very gallantry would cause your destruction.

"Then came Dunkirk. As hour by hour over our radios we followed that magnificent and unequalled retreat we realized that, no matter how humdrum life had once seemed, we were living in a heroic age. And when the withdrawal was complete our confidence was restored. We knew that a people who could transmute disaster into glory as you had done could never be conquered.

"But what stirs us most is the glorious courage of your people as they face the horrors of air attack. Trained armies have broken under a fraction of such punishment, yet you, the civilians, are carrying on a victory which shall be the greatest of all victories because of the way in which it is being won.

"Over here we are given to hero worship, but as a rule the heroes are our own. But in the case of Winston Churchill we have let down the bars and taken him to our heart. Anyhow, he is half American by birth. But it is what he has done and is doing that appeals to us. He typifies our idea of a Britisher—solid, resolute and wise, and a fighter who fights clean and knows no fear.

"We feel that we can sum up our attitude in this salute from Bristol, New England, to Bristol, Old England, by repeating a story we, and probably you, have recently heard: Not long ago when King George was walking about London, inspecting the damage done by air raids, a cabby recognized him and shouted, 'You are a great king, sir!' To which the king answered heartily, 'And you are a great people.'

"That is the way we feel."

—THE LORD MAYOR REPLIES

Two days later the Lord Mayor broadcast Bristol's thanks to America:

"I speak on behalf of the people of Bristol, England, to thank all American citizens for the words of good cheer broadcast to us from Bristol, Vermont, on Thursday last. I thank you for the message that you are 'rolling up your sleeves' in support of Britain's effort to repulse the onslaught of a ruthless enemy. I thank you for your inspiration and encouragement in our joint efforts to establish that freedom amongst all nations which will enable all men to shape their own destinies.

"Whilst we listened to your voice here in Bristol, the Nazis were making yet another air raid on our City. Your strong words of cheer were punctuated by the crump of falling bombs near us, and the crack of bursting shells from the anti-aircraft guns of our defences. More citizens made the supreme sacrifice and fell in this first line of battle. Then in the lull came again your voice from Bristol, Vermont, saying that you are following hour by hour our magnificent fight. You strengthen our courage by the ever-present knowledge that you are with us right on until a victorious peace is won.

"At Christmas I had the privilege to send to the Mayor of each of your twenty

Bristols, our namesakes in America, one of my Christmas Greetings Cards, which included a picture of the ancient Bristol drawbridge over our river harbour in the eighteenth century. From that spot over four hundred and fifty years ago, Cabot sailed with a Bristol ship, manned by a Bristol crew. They were the great adventurers who discovered your great continent of America. Those Bristolians were the first Britishers to step on your shores. All down the following centuries pioneers like William Penn of Bristol have strengthened the ties existing between us.

"As Lord Mayor of Bristol I express our gratitude for your many generous gifts to Bristol's Air-Raid Distress Fund, from which we help our citizens, including large numbers of children, who have been bombed from their homes, often with the loss of all they possessed. Thus you have greatly helped to bring new hope and courage into the lives of many of our people.

"So are the Bonds of Friendship still further strengthened at this vital moment in our life as a free nation. Your great sympathy reincarnates and clothes anew our Brotherhood in the common cause of Humanity."

AMERICAN CONTACTS STRENGTHENED

THESE transatlantic messages still further stimulated the growth of the friendships between the mother Bristol and the younger Bristols overseas.

Later, Mrs. Beulah B. Dickerman, the Mayoress, wrote a description of the method by which the small township of Bristol, Vermont, had raised so surprisingly a large sum from this community of 1,800 people. "In the windows of the First National Bank is a beautiful hand-drawn map. On it is shown Bristol, Vermont, and the route to Bristol, England. A small hand-drawn boat is attached to the map on one side of the Atlantic and on the other side of this boat we have placed the amount raised. . . . The Port of Bristol books have helped many of us to feel better acquainted with our Mother City."

Other Bristols, notably those in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Virginia, made large contributions. Rotary of Bristol, Connecticut, also greatly aided Bristol Rotary to accomplish excellent work amongst blitzed people in need of rest and recuperation. Bristol, Rhode Island, made a special contribution of £1,000 for the purchase of a hostel for women. This project was successfully carried through by Colonel E. W. Lennard, T.D., Chairman of the Council of Social Service. The City Council and the Lord Mayor's War Services Fund provided the cost of alterations and equipment. This emergency hostel provides accommodation and 40 beds for Service women and civilians, and is named the Bristol, Rhode Island, Hostel. It was officially and appropriately opened by Mr. E. S. Scudder, the American Vice-President of the Namesake Towns Association.

American children also played their part in self-sacrifice and made their first practical ventures into the realms of other lands. The school children of Livingstone, Montana, in the Middle West, brought their pennies and nickels to school for children who had suffered through school or home being destroyed. This gift was accompanied by Christmas cards inscribed with messages for Bristol children. In reply, four forms of the Merrywood Girls' Secondary School, Bristol, wrote letters to the similar classes in this Lincoln School, U.S.A., with greeting

cards. For two years past this Bristol school had corresponded with the Arsenal Technical Schools in Indianapolis, an arrangement set afoot by Mr. Roy Baker, the American Consul in Bristol. Nine Merrywood girls were elected honorary members of the Arsenal Technical School and maintained a continuous correspondence.

Many other contributions reached Bristol from widely spread areas of the United States, including :

Blairsville.	Washington.	Cincinnati.
Colorado.	California.	Delaware.
Florida.	Connecticut.	Illinois.
Long Island City	Idaho.	Massachusetts.
Michigan.	Los Angeles.	New York.
Oregon.	New Jersey.	Rhode Island.
Nebraska.	Philadelphia.	Virginia.
San Francisco.	Texas.	

"BELLOWS"

It was the Lord Mayor's special interest in the welfare of children that led to his visit to an old blacksmith's cottage near Clevedon, and his introduction to a corner of the United States established in a beautiful Somerset valley. When war broke out, many British parents sent their children overseas to be the guests of warm-hearted American families who opened their homes with that generosity we always associate with them. Among the children who crossed the Atlantic were two little boys and a girl, children of Mr. Frank B. Whittaker, a Bristol business man. Wartime regulations made it impossible for Mr. Whittaker to send anything except his thanks, but the warmth of the welcome to his children and the number of requests he received for other boys and girls to be sent out set him thinking. And out of his love for children was born a scheme. The dangers of the Atlantic-crossing as the U-boat danger increased led to a ban on child evacuation, although American families were asking for more little guests. So Mr. Whittaker evolved the idea of acquiring a country home in England supported by American money—a home in which children from war-scarred Bristol could be housed as personal guests of American families. He found two picturesque cottages in the fold of the hills between the Somerset coastline and the Tickenham hills, and there, at Weston-in-Gordano, was established the first guest house for blitzed children—a corner of American generosity planted in a lovely corner of Somerset. In a shed at the back of the cottages was the old hand-worked bellows which the village smith used to blow on his fire until it glowed into life. From that instrument arose the decision to call the cottages "Bellows." Bellows would blow happiness and health across the wide Atlantic waters to children whose homes had been smashed and broken by enemy bombs ; Bellows would spell safety and rested nerves ; Bellows would be for ever a reminder of the generosity of the people of the United States.

Bellows was soon followed by the establishment of a second home—Arcadia Bellows—in Cheddar, and these two houses were staffed by women who loved children and were experienced in caring for them. Soon they were looking after

two happy families of children who did not come under any of the official evacuation schemes, and a regular and steady income was being received from that splendid band of men and women who were organizing the fund on the other side of the ocean.

It was delightful to see the happiness on the faces of the children when the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress paid them a civic visit, and to hear them sing their welcome song on the lawn in front of the house. Here, under the protection of the British-American Bellows Society, these two little groups of boys and girls, among them children who had been through terrifying experiences in air raids, were being well cared for in guest houses run as homes in the happiest of family interpretations of the word.

Characteristic messages accompanied all the gifts from America. Publicity was accorded every instance. Letters were sent in reply and many enquiries answered. In fact these many contacts gave birth to a revival of friendship in a marked degree. It may well be that this movement performed a conspicuous part in support of President Roosevelt's persistent and successful efforts to give unstinted support to Britain in her great struggle.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AIDS

THE same process, the reinforcement of existing bonds of friendship, operated with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies. Each has paid tribute by word and deed to the citizens of Bristol. Brevity limits the reference to but a few illustrations.

CANADA

THE Society of Bristolians in Toronto, through the President, Mr. F. J. Uzzell, contributed financial aid and bales of clothing at frequent intervals. A Bristol Day was held at the Canadian Exhibition in this city with a display of the samples of goods sent to Bristol. Mrs. Jones, President of the Canadian Auxiliary of Railway Workers attended this Society at Toronto and on her return to Montreal established a similar society with 100 members in her city with Mr. C. Parkin, J.P., as President.

The Montreal Bristol Society requested, and was accorded by the Lord Mayor, the permission to use the Bristol City Coat of Arms and Motto on their stationery in conjunction with that of the City of Montreal. Films of Bristol, loaned from Toronto, were shown to large audiences.

THE MONTREAL SYMBOLIC PICTURE

A COMPOSITE picture, or *montage*, compiled from 30 snapshots giving glimpses of scenery from both Bristol and Montreal, was issued as a souvenir of the Foundation of the Society. On receipt of a copy of this composite photograph, the Lord Mayor wrote the President :

"The close association thereby displayed will be symbolic of the unity of heart and purpose which exists between the citizens of Montreal and Bristol in the determination to hold steadfastly to all that is right and true in the great world struggle for freedom."

Mr. Parkin mailed the following description of this picture which he himself designed :

"These cities possess many characteristics in common—river bridges of outstanding design, beautiful cathedrals, churches and fine public buildings, large natural parks on elevated ground, excellent waterways and universities of high standing.

"Each has played its part in history in the founding and development of our country. The Cabot Tower on Brandon Hill commemorates the expeditions from their home port, Bristol, of John and Sebastian Cabot, who sailed thence to discover many parts of the North American continent in the fifteenth century. A statue in our Atwater Park marks the appreciation of Montrealers.

"Our symbolic picture shows the Lord Mayor standing at the base of the famous Cabot Tower, with the Clifton Suspension Bridge at right and Montreal's Jacques Cartier Bridge at left top. Flanking the tower and depicting some of Montreal's attractive features are part of Mount Royal with its cross, St. James' Cathedral, Ritz-Carlton Hotel and Chateau Apartments, McGill University, Sun Life Buildings with some of the principal grain elevators and a small section of the harbour. Bristol is represented by a glimpse of the River Avon Gorge, part of the Cathedral's sculpture, the clock-tower of Temple Meads Railway Station and the fine tower of the University, of which institution, Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, is Rector."

Such enthusiasm enabled Montreal to transmit to Bristol several instalments in cash and upwards of two-and-a-half tons of clothing. From this city True Kindred No. 1 and the Kitchener Chapter I.O.D.E., per Mrs. Boronow and Lady D. McFadyean, also sent consignments of clothing and comforts.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

AN interesting story came from the Prime Minister (Mr. Shane A. Campbell) of the Prince Edward Island with his remittance of over 1,000 dollars, contributed by the people of the tiny rural settlement named Bristol. It is told in his own words to the Lord Mayor :

"I took the liberty of quoting passages from your report entitled 'The Spirit of the People' in the course of several addresses in this Province and our people were profoundly impressed by the spirit displayed by your citizens in the midst of such severe attacks and tribulations.

"The Women's Institute and residents of Bristol, with the co-operation of the neighbouring village of Morell, sponsored an entertainment which netted 1,018 dollars for the Bristol Fund. This entertainment, consisting of supper, street dance on the provincial highway of Morell, programme of band music and addresses and various games, involved a great deal of preparation work.

"Unfortunately the weather was extremely bad and the entertainment had to be broken in two and the remainder held two nights later. Curiously enough on the intervening day a strange type of whale, which had not previously been seen in these parts, came up a river near Bristol, was captured and placed on exhibition during the second evening. The admission fees for a view of this curious fish netted in the vicinity of 60 dollars for the fund."

In a second letter the Prime Minister wrote :

"Great Britain and the Empire are being drawn more closely together at the present time than ever before. Some of the children of our Bristol have sent Christmas cards to some of the school children in your great City. I hope that this movement, which has been followed by the pupils of 22 of our schools, will have the effect of opening up a cordial correspondence between many of the children of Great Britain and of this country."

WINNIPEG'S SERVICE

THE gift of a ton of useful goods in giant packages, together with financial help, came from Grace United Church, Winnipeg. This was collected in a unique manner. For well-nigh 500 years without a break the Mayor and City Council of Bristol have attended in state St. Mary Redcliffe Church for the Whit-Sunday Rush Service. A fanfare of trumpets announces the arrival of the procession, the aisles are strewn with freshly-cut rushes and each of the City Fathers receives a handsome bouquet of flowers at the close of an inspiring service. While this was proceeding in Bristol on 1st June, Grace United Church, Winnipeg, held a Bristol Day, members of the congregation bringing gifts of food and clothing which they piled on a large model ship outside the church. The Minister, the Rev. W. G. Martin, wrote the Lord Mayor that it was a most impressive service and everyone felt greatly enriched as the result of this display of practical Christianity. It chanced that a Bristol boy, Gordon Denford, an evacuee to Canada, attended that service. He penned a graphic description to his father: "I took a pound tin of coffee and carved my name on the tin. Boy! that ship was full up. When the Lord Mayor and City Council were at Redcliffe we in the Grace United Church were thinking of you and praying for you. I did not forget to tell them that the Lord Mayor was my father's old schoolmaster." Those gifts brought cheer to the Hinnegar Campers.

OTHER GOODLY GIFTS FROM CANADA

OTHER Canadian Societies which helped Bristol were the Manitoba Division of the Canadian Red Cross; the Victoria Museum Women's Club; the St. George's Society, Hamilton; the Bristol Society, London, Ontario; the Vancouver Branch of the League of Empire, and the Bristol War Aid Fund Regina. Many tokens of practical sympathy came to hand also from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Regina, Saskatchewan, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

SOUTH AFRICA—CAPETOWN

CAPETOWN won a niche in Bristol's temple of fame one morning in May when a cablegram was handed in at the Lord Mayor's office bringing these glad tidings :

"Have cabled you to-day 2,376 pounds South African currency, being result of six weeks' collection by Capetown citizens. Would appreciate short cable acknowledging, suitable for publication. Are inaugurating wider collection campaign 28th May for relief Britain's bombed cities. Therefore would help us this end if B.B.C. could acknowledge and announce in African News Service at 4 p.m.

"Founder of Fund, Mrs. Kendall."

These wishes were promptly carried out and that day the Lord Mayor's broadcast was made to South Africa in these terms :

" I speak to you all in Cape Town to-day on behalf of the men, women and children of my ancient City of Bristol, to thank you for your wonderful gift of £2,376 in South African currency. This was cabled to us this morning for the relief of air-raid distress caused by the bombs of the enemy. Such a generous contribution raised by your citizens in Cape Town in the short time of six weeks has given us a great thrill of gratitude and pleasure.

" My fellow citizens have suffered severely. Many have given their lives in this front line of the Battle of Britain. Many have suffered severe bodily injury. Thousands have lost their homes, their clothing and all they possessed.

" Great destruction has been inflicted upon our historic buildings with loss of valued treasures which can never be replaced.

" Your gifts bring cheer and comfort to our sufferers. You help us to provide new homes, to furnish them, to re-clothe the blitzed men, women and children, to provide rest homes for those suffering in mind or body.

" We treasure as a bright jewel, your friendship, your spirit of comradeship. So are the bonds of unity strengthened between us and our determination renewed to tread tyranny down under our feet. We admire the courage of your brave men of the South African forces in the North African campaign and rejoice in their victories. As Lord Mayor I send you Bristol's good wishes and gratitude."

The mainspring of this movement in Capetown, Mrs. Kendall (née Miss Laura Plumley), spent her early life in Bristol where she assisted in the Lord Mayor's office for a time, including the late Alderman Walter Bryant's term of office as Lord Mayor. Her letter dispatched to Bristol on 10th June gave a graphic description of the Capetown episode :

" Thank you for your cable which arrived at 4 p.m., 27th May, and then for your splendid broadcast. It came over the air absolutely perfectly and cheered the hearts of many Bristolians and others. You will be interested to know that a meeting of Bristolians was to take place at 5.30 p.m. on that very afternoon, and by arrangement we were to listen to your voice while sitting round a Board Room table. We were many of us quite touched ; it seemed as though it had been arranged for our special benefit and an absolutely perfect finish to the Bristol period, my first effort. We all wish to thank you most earnestly. I should be glad if you would send me an autographed copy of the words as I am keeping a scrap book and it would be most interesting. . . . His Worship the Mayor of Cape Town has volunteered to merge his London Relief Fund into Britain's Cities Relief Fund. . . . I have had many touching letters from all over the Union, from rich and the very poorest giving the Fund their blessing. We cabled £5,000 on Monday last to Mrs. Waterson and hope to send more soon, but I am glad Bristol came in first. I hope you will send to London when you need more.

" Yours very truly,

" (Signed) L. B. KENDALL (Founder)."

The spirit of South Africa is clearly shown in an extract from the Appeal by Mr. B. K. Long, M.P., Chairman of the Fund :

" The Battle of Britain is the battle we cannot afford to lose. We, who are

living in the comfort and security of South Africa, are under a tremendous obligation to the people of Britain who at the moment are bearing the brunt of this battle, the horror of which we at this distance can scarcely imagine."

WIDESPREAD AFRICAN SUPPORT

CLOSE upon this trail followed a series of other gifts from many parts of Africa, including Cairo, Cape Town, Kenya Colony, Natal, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria, Transvaal and Zululand. A donor in Zululand stated he was prompted to respond when he heard the Lord Mayor's broadcast to South Africa. The Government of Tanganyika contributed the sum of £150. The British Community and friends in the Belgian Congo sent their sympathy reinforced with a gift of £100 from the committee of the Congo British War Fund, being part receipts of a British Fair held in Leopoldville.

Many Bristolians in Africa combined their messages of sympathy with donations. How widely dispersed these were may be illustrated by two references. The Bishop of Lagos (known as the Rev Canon L. G. Vining, former vicar of St. Alban's, Bristol) wrote in terms of intense sympathy during a long journey away from home in the Bush. His gift came with the message that Bristol is "never forgotten by me for a single day." A Clifton High School girl in her new home, as an evacuee in Johannesburg, stated she was thrilled to hear a voice from Bristol when the Lord Mayor's broadcast took her so completely by surprise.

From Northern Rhodesia the government transmitted a gift from a private donor towards Rest Homes for women. The people of Luanshya in this same province made a gift of £100, a notable gesture. In addition to private donations from Southern Rhodesia special interest is attached to the sum raised by the children of Gadzema, who made the self-sacrifice of giving up their school prizes and treats so that their little brothers and sisters in far-off Bristol could receive cheer and comforts, and have some restoration of their toys and books destroyed by enemy action. The Rhodesian Women's Working Party worthily emulated the Rhodesian children.

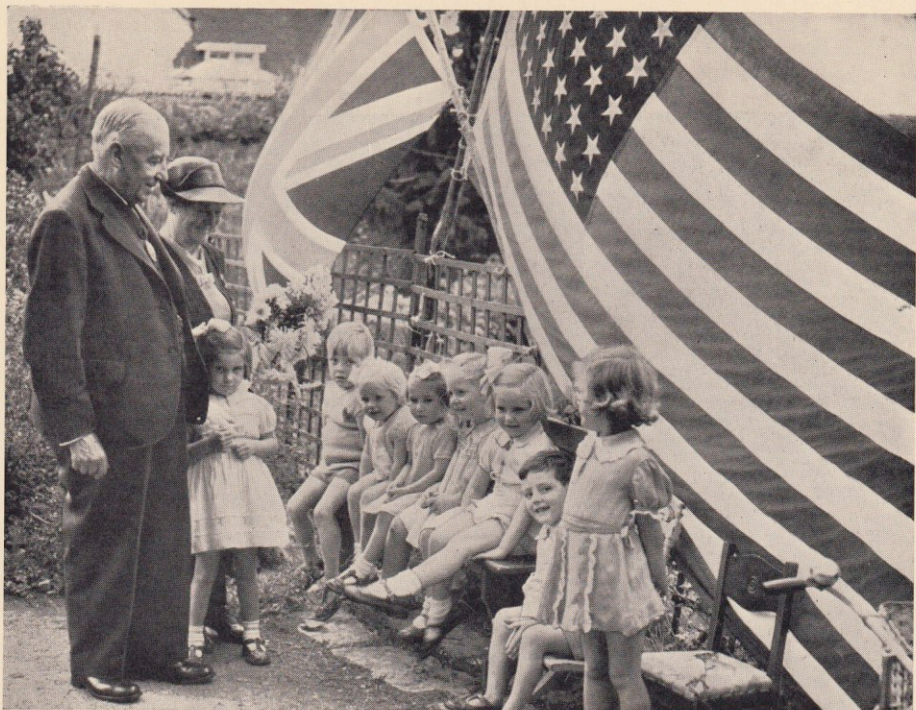
A permanent memorial to South Africa's generosity is the Good Hope Home at Burnham-on-Sea, presented to Bristol by the people of South Africa. This home for twenty-five children of tender years was opened by Mrs. Waterson, wife of the High Commissioner for South Africa. At the ceremony a telegram was read from General Smuts by his daughter, Mrs. Cato Clark, in these terms :

"South Africa's greetings and blessings for Good Hope Home for blitzed babies. Mrs. Waterson brings you all our affection and best wishes."

The Lord Mayor accepted this handsome contribution, costing about £4,000, with Bristol's gratitude to South Africa and particularly to Mrs. C. Clark who initiated the movement.

The Equatorial territory of Uganda emulated her African partners in the Commonwealth. The Government of this British area sent the handsome sum of £1,000, through Lord Moyne, "for the relief of bombed areas in Bristol." By agreement, this sum has been devoted to the provision of a Home for aged people at West Town House, Brislington.

Financial aid and clothing were contributed by the South African Volunteer Service, the Rodmarton Women's Guild in Southern Rhodesia, the South African



A visit to Arcadia Bellows, Cheddar.

[See page 27.]



The Duchess of Beaufort at Hinnegar Camp.

[See page 39.]



Bristol at Balliol.

Friends of Civil Defence Services, the Sierra Leone War Charities Fund, and the employees of Messrs. E. S. & A. Robinson (Bristol) in South Africa.

AUSTRALIA

THE far-cry to the Antipodes proved no restraint upon the Bristolians resident in the Commonwealth of Australia to aid their erstwhile fellow-citizens. The spirit of "the old school tie" prevailed. A Bristolian Society, formed four years ago, made strenuous efforts under the leadership of their President, Mr. A. Weston. Their request for films and pictures of Bristol could not be met, owing to war restrictions, but they raked together 200 views and postcards which were reflected upon a screen in natural colours, commencing with the Lord Mayor who was then figuratively called upon to accompany the large audience on a trip round Bristol and the neighbouring places of interest and beauty. This travelogue was conducted by Mr. A. Weston who, by the way, is one of the Lord Mayor's "Old Boys." He is now a prominent business man in Sydney. On his arrival there he was "down and out" and slept the night penniless on an open seat in a public park. He made good and his inauguration of this Society of Bristolians has now culminated in gifts to Bristol, which included several substantial cheques and cases of clothing, one of which contained over 1,000 garments. Inspired by this success Mr. Weston travelled to Melbourne by air, a 600 mile journey to inaugurate a Bristol Society in that City.

NEW ZEALAND

ONE of Bristol's daughters was the moving spirit in New Zealand's effort. Mrs. G. Clark (née Mann) formed a Bristolian Fellowship at Wellington. When only six weeks old this body sent consignments of blankets and clothing with cash and sympathy. Mrs. Clark in her Bristol days accompanied her father and Mr. J. H. Reed, at that time the Lord Mayor's Secretary, on botanical excursions around Bristol and collected over 300 specimens of wild flowers. Consignments of goods were also received through the High Commissioner for New Zealand.

During his stay at the Mansion House with the Lord Mayor, Mr. Peter Fraser, the Prime Minister of New Zealand toured the City's bombed areas. He eloquently expressed New Zealand's sympathy. At one ruined home he talked with an elderly Bristol woman who had lost her home four times in air raids, with narrow escapes of her life. Greeted with her smile, Mr. Fraser said, "You Bristol people are making history to-day as great as any in your City's colourful past." This lady will ever treasure the souvenir she received from the Prime Minister, who was greatly impressed by Bristol's unconquerable spirit. Later, Mr. Fraser was standing on the edge of a huge crater formed by the paramine which fell near Victoria Park. A crowd gathered. He spoke kindly words to them as he looked upon the destroyed homes and asked if all their needs were supplied. "Yes," said a robust working man, "but there is one thing, we want some beer." All smiled at this touch of humour. There had been a local shortage of beer for some days.

A few months later, in fulfilment of a promise, the Lord Mayor sent the Prime Minister a few roots of the "Flower of Bristowe" (*Lychnis Chalcedonica*), called the "Nonesuch" by the herbalists and "Scarlet Lightning" by the cottagers. It is well-known to eastern continental nations and bears such names as the

Campion of Constantinople, the Cross of Jerusalem, the Cross of the Knights, and the Cross of Malta. This flower was probably introduced through the Port of Bristol in the Middle Ages. Gerard referred to it in 1590. The brilliant scarlet of its blossom was adopted by the University of Bristol. Mr. Fraser has planted the "Flower of Bristowe" in New Zealand and expressed the hope that it will thrive in its new environment.

FROM OTHER DISTANT LANDS

MR. A. K. POTTER, a resident of Rangoon, Burma, whose father resides at Almondsbury, near Bristol, was the munificent donor of £600.

An anonymous resident in Sweden, out of great sympathy, subscribed £300 through the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden.

India's help included contributions from the Bombay West Country Association and from Lahore. Bristolians in Singapore and Malaya were also mindful of their former City. Gifts came from Switzerland and from Buenos Aires, Monte Video and Brazil in South America.

Following a visit to Bristol when a flag was presented to a Free-French military delegation, the Société des Français de Grande-Bretagne assigned fifty guineas to the Distress Fund.

MOBILE CANTEENS

WHEN benefactors earmarked their contributions for special forms of aid their wishes were fulfilled. The mobile canteen was an essential equipment for ministering urgent refreshment to blitzed and homeless people. Gifts for this special form of service were thus applied. The Canteens were publicly presented to the City and placed under the control of the Women's Voluntary Service.

These gifts included "The Florida Canteen," the gift of Mrs. W. N. Mitchell of Winter Park, Florida, U.S.A., presented to the Lord Mayor and citizens of Bristol at the Council House by her representative, Sister Clark.

Turks and Caicos Islands' Canteen was the gift of the people of those small islands, with a population of only 5,300, mostly of African descent. These people are amongst the "salt of the earth" in their generosity and strangely enough their main product is salt from sea water by evaporation. Turks Islands' salt is noted for its purity. The public presentation of this canteen was made by Nurse Tatem, a native of Turks Islands. Colonel E. W. Lennard represented the West India Committee at this function.

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, presented in person to the Lord Mayor a mobile canteen given by the Australian Mutual Provident Society for the W.V.S.

Not the least interesting gift was the mobile canteen handed to Bristol by Alderman A. W. S. Burgess on behalf of the Lord Mayor of London and inscribed: "Presented by residents of Quthing, Basutoland, South Africa." The readers of the *Toronto Evening Telegram* and the residents of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia made similar generous gifts.

AMERICAN AMBULANCES

A FLEET of ambulances was provided by the American Ambulance Association, whose Director-General, Mr. Gilbert Carr, joined the Lord Mayor in the inspection

of the unit, of which Mrs. H. Thellman was in charge. Another American Ambulance, the gift of employees of the Royal Insurance Group of New York, was placed in charge of Dr. Davis, the Deputy M.O.H., by the Lord Mayor for use in Bristol Casualty and Emergency Hospitals.

AID FROM THE HOMELAND

THE great flood of sympathy from overseas, without precedent in the history of Bristol, had its counterpart throughout Great Britain and amongst her own citizens. Recognition of every such contribution has been recorded in the Bristol press, the *Western Daily Press*, the *Bristol Evening Post* and the *Evening World* giving full publicity. Many stories are on record of the self-sacrifice made by the old-age pensioner, the widow, the school child, the bereaved and the blitzed, as well as by generous donors who themselves escaped the attentions of the enemy.

Help came from organized efforts in towns and villages, by the churches, sports and bowling clubs, schools, voluntary Civil Defence workers, kindred societies, and H.M. Navy, Army and Air Forces, not only in the Bristol and the Western Area but also from many distant places in the British Isles. Especially worthy of mention was the handsome gesture of over £100 sent by the officers and men of one of H.M. ships amidst their own dangers in the Battle of the Atlantic. Bristol's own effort culminated in the Flag Day for the National Air-Raid Distress Fund. Under the capable and energetic leadership of Mrs. A. Mass, Bristol raised a record Flag-Day amount of over £3,000, which was forwarded to the Lord Mayor of London's National Fund.

Mobile Canteens were provided by special funds raised in Bristol. One hundred and thirty-one companies of Bristol Girl Guides and Brownies, by concerted effort, presented the Lord Mayor with a mobile canteen for the use of the Fire Brigade. The Clifton Division of Civil Defence Services purchased and equipped a mobile canteen trailer named the "Rosemary"—for use in the City. Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, National President of the British Legion made the gift of a canteen from the Legion at the Mansion House. In South Bristol the A.R.P. Wardens and Fire-watchers of St. Luke's Crypt made a spirited effort, collecting many tokens of gratitude in a widely blitzed area, and later presenting the Lord Mayor with a mobile canteen. The Unionist Women of West Bristol contributed an ambulance for the use of air-raid casualties and in emergency maternity cases.

A mobile canteen was presented by Mrs. Goldman. Four Ford emergency food vans were presented by Messrs. Henry Ford and Son.

All the mobile canteens, with the exception of those assigned for specific purposes, were placed under the control and supervision of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence. This organization rendered yeoman service under the capable leadership of Mrs. Herbert Thomas with Mrs. E. W. Lennard and other ladies ever ready to take the canteens for active use in the time of need, often amidst great personal dangers during bombardments from the air.

To those who gave in all these efforts, to one and all, words of heartfelt gratitude are hereby accorded. They will readily understand that the recital in these pages is devoted largely to the record of Bristol's aid from overseas and the relief of mind and body and spirit her people received thereby.

MORALE MAINTAINED

THIS financial aid provided the dynamic power to stimulate and maintain the high standard of morale displayed by the citizens, the basis of which had been well and truly laid. In September, 1940, the Lord Mayor of that time, Alderman A. W. S. Burgess, had issued to the City 50,000 copies of the Moral Re-Armament message, "Morale—How to play your part." Two months later came the first great night attack upon the City. The second severe raid took place on 2nd of December. On that and the following day the message appeared in full page display in the three Bristol daily newspapers. This space in the press was taken by a number of Bristol citizens and business firms. This was the message :

MORALE

How You Can Play Your Part

Forget yourself in helping your neighbours. In days of tension this casts out your own fears and worries. Help them to carry out all instructions about air raids, evacuation, rationing and waste.

Keep the moral standards of the nation high. Don't weaken the home front by trying to wangle something for yourself on the quiet. Make a break with all the personal indulgences, selfishness and private wars which undermine national morale and unity. Everybody has his part to play in the moral re-armament of the nation.

Be a rumour-stopper. Those who love their country sacrifice the luxury of being the ones to pass on the "news." Any patriot shoots a rumour dead on sight. Face the facts, but don't exaggerate them. Prepare to meet them instead. Faith, confidence and cheerfulness are as contagious as fear, depression and grumbling.

The secret of steadiness and inner strength is to listen to God and do what he says. God speaks directly to the heart of every man and woman who is prepared to listen and obey. Write down the thoughts He gives you. His voice can be heard wherever you are—in the home, in the factory, in the air-raid shelter, or in the first-aid post.

Forearm yourself by listening to God first thing every morning. This provides a clear plan for each day and the power to work with other people in complete unity. In a time of listening God takes away fear and fortifies against uncertainty, hardship or bereavement. He gives foresight and clear judgment. He offers limitless reserves of energy and initiative.

A British General who has fought through two wars said this : "Telephone wires may be cut, wireless stations be destroyed, but no bombardment can stop messages from God coming through if we are willing to receive them. To listen to God and obey Him is the highest form of national service for everybody everywhere."

THE LORD MAYOR OF BRISTOL : Alderman T. H. J. UNDERDOWN.

THE SHERIFF OF BRISTOL : C. H. W. DAVEY, Esq.

THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR OF BRISTOL : Alderman A. W. S. BURGESS.

Col. E. W. LENNARD, Chairman, Bristol Council of Social Service.

Councillor F. C. LUKE, Chairman, Bristol National Savings Committee.

Alderman J. J. MILTON, Chairman, Bristol Health Committee.

Alderman FRANK SHEPPARD, Chairman, Bristol A.R.P. Committee

Among the comments of Bristol's press were these :—

"The spirit of Bristol has had a severe test. Bombing from the air has not shaken it. This spirit will win the war and afterwards win the peace."

"The United States well understands this spirit. President Roosevelt recently called his nation to initiate a programme of moral re-armament. When a similar message from twenty-five British Labour leaders was read at the Convention of American Federation of Labour, 1,000 delegates greeted it with acclamation. The Convention spokesmen pledged American Labour to co-operate fully in such a programme both now and after the war."

In February, 1941, the Lord Mayor issued a report on "The Spirit of the People," which was circulated to leading citizens in all parts of Great Britain and the English-speaking World. In many instances, the report was reproduced in part or in full in the press, with particular emphasis placed upon the manifesto—"Morale—How to Play Your Part."

MALTA COMMENDS

ONE notable instance out of many serves as an appropriate illustration of the value placed upon Bristol's example. No part of the British Empire has been called upon to stand in the forefront of the battle-line for a longer period than that experienced by Malta. Her people and her defenders have bravely withstood a thousand bombings. In September, 1941, the Governor of Malta caused to be published in *The Sunday Times* of Malta under the headlines "The Spirit of the People" a complete reproduction of the pamphlet on "Morale—How to Play Your Part." Extensive quotations were made from the Lord Mayor's report. Prominent comments stated that "the spirit of the people of Bristol and the other bombed cities has inspired other peoples everywhere. With news of Bristol's endurance has also gone echoing round the world the call for Moral Re-Armament. Through the heavy shadow of five enemy attacks there has been a bright light shining for the people of Bristol and elsewhere. It is the drawing closer of the American and British cousins, which has been furthered in no small degree by the Moral Re-Armament of British peoples who have shown the world a worthy example in tenacious bravery. The recent Roosevelt-Churchill Declaration marks a climacteric in yet further progress to Anglo-American Solidarity."

DRAMATIC AID TO MORALE

At the time of Bristol's severe trial conspicuous service was given by the Moral Re-Armament Players, who visited the City and gave several performances of "Giant Otherfellow," a striking play with music and song. The play was simple in theme but vividly revealed its moral with excellent characterizations. Crowded houses at each performance testified to the great success of the play, particularly amongst the troops, munition workers, and the people in the most heavily blitzed areas of the City. This play brought renewed hope and confidence, with an increased spirit of good neighbourliness into the lives of many men, women and children. It influenced the movement, sponsored by the Emergency Committee of the City Council, to set up in every ward of the City a Fellowship. Numerous gatherings were held and arrangements made for the members of

each Fellowship Group to act after every air raid as guides, philosophers and friends amongst their neighbours.

THE FUND IN ACTION

MEANTIME and subsequently the disintegrating influences of further air raids, sleepless nights, fatigue, and depression from long working hours needed an arresting physical prophylactic. The attitude "we can take it" would hold fast while physical fitness endured. Hence the Lord Mayor's War Services Fund Committee planned schemes for rest, recuperation, relief and restoration. All were made possible and potent by the generosity recorded with gratitude in these pages.

During the twelve months under review the contributions from all sources to the Bristol Fund amounted to £40,000. The administration was in the hands of a representative committee, which met weekly, presided over by the Lord Mayor. Its executive officers were honorary and no payment was made for their services. To avoid elaborate and new machinery in wartime use was made of existing Bodies whose credentials were beyond reproach. Aid was granted to them to be applied to groups or sections of citizens suffering at the hands of the enemy. The Committee retained the direct consideration of help to individual persons in need of assistance.

The channels through which citizens have thus been assisted include the Bristol Rotary Club, the Civic League, the Councils of Christian Churches and Social Service, the Salvation Army, the Sailors' and Seamen's Societies, the University Settlement, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., the Diocesan Moral Welfare Association and the Church Army.

The services rendered by these societies, to whom grants were made for specific purposes, were varied. The Rotary Club, assisted by substantial financial aid from the Bristol Rotary Club, Connecticut, found homes for cases of real suffering and sent 850 citizens away to recuperate at the seaside and other health-giving places. The University Settlement, under the charge of Miss Jennings, set up a country convalescent home for babies, and a temporary establishment for mothers, and arranged holiday rest periods at St. Mary's College, Cheltenham, and Blundell's School. A home for children at the Old Rectory, Cleeve, in Somerset, was established by the Council of Christian Churches. There 300 recuperated. One large country rectory in that same county was equipped as a hostel for the blind and another for aged people.

The complete destruction of the premises of the Y.W.C.A. and damage to those occupied by the Y.M.C.A. involved heavy losses, but grants from this Fund assisted these organizations in their speedy rehabilitation and their resumption of the daily supply of needs and comforts.

The co-operation and assistance readily given throughout the West of England deserve a high place of grateful recognition. The Chairmen of the County Councils of Gloucestershire (Sir F. Cripps) and Somerset (Sir A. S. Hobhouse) built up organizations to find private billets for rest periods for air-raid victims. In those areas as well as in Dorset and Wiltshire blitzed people enjoyed private hospitality in country homes. The people of Devon, too, assisted and at Sidmouth, where the churches co-operated, free hospitality for about fifty persons weekly was provided. Incidental and travel expenses were met by the fund in all cases.

In these schemes Dr. R. H. Parry, the Medical Officer of Health for Bristol, took a leading part. During the first "blitzed" Christmas the children's disappointment at the absence of Santa Claus or the visionary Father Christmas was to some extent mollified by the parties given in those areas of the City which had been heavily bombed. Round about 17,000 children had at least one carefree gathering of enjoyment. Laughter, merriment and happiness, so quickly to prevail amongst children, were once again ringing through the halls and each one departed with a small gift, greatly enhanced in value by the prevalent shortage of such Christmas tokens of peace on earth and goodwill.

The adults were entertained at concerts which were supplemented by visits to shelters, rest centres and hostels during raid periods. At the Christmas season several hundred people were each given gifts up to the value of £1 in goods of various kinds.

In many other ways the funds provided for the dire needs of those whose homes had been shattered. Railway fares and expenses of removal of furniture were paid to enable women and their children to join relatives in safer areas. Many whose loved ones paid the supreme sacrifice received the funeral expenses. A high percentage of the 20,000 evacuated children were equipped with clothing and boots before setting out on their trek to new homes and foster parents. Small business people and tradesmen were aided by loans to set up in business again. The aim kept uppermost in mind was to assist the individual towards the restoration of his place in the economic life of the community. This principle has been extended to help the blind, the halt, the deaf and dumb, the aged, the feeble, and those who lost their savings through bomb and fire.

The restoration of impaired health, crushed spirit and jaded nerves became a pressing problem. The schemes adopted to provide rest and recuperation for between 5,000 and 6,000 citizens ran along three main avenues: billets in the country (already recorded), a camp for mothers and children, rest holidays in colleges and schools and a hostel by the sea.

HINNEGAR CAMP, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

THE camp for mothers and young children under the age of five attracted a wide attention throughout England. The first of its kind, it was a pioneer work which reflected great credit upon those who conceived and executed the scheme, foremost among whom was Mr. H. V. Hindle, the honorary secretary to the Lord Mayor's Air-Raid Distress Fund.

The Duke and Duchess of Beaufort freely granted a site at Hinnegar upon their Badminton Estate. The locale was ideal with its sylvan glades, beech avenues, patches of open greensward and shaded plantations. A spacious Dutch barn on the spot was converted into a refectory and recreation hall. The woodman's and wagoner's sheds were adapted for the commissariat. Tents for sleeping accommodation were equipped with boarded floors and were each furnished with beds for two families. Hygienic conditions included facilities for the mothers' laundry work and the bathing of young children. Among the gifts of equipment were ten camp beds from a lady in Surrey, and a piano, wireless set and ping-pong table from a Bristolian. A recreation tent with many kinds of toys and games, a sand pit, a chute, rocking horses and swings for the young

children relieved many mothers of the continued nervous strain which life in a bombed city had entailed.

During the spring and summer of 1941 parties of a hundred mothers and children—some babies not many weeks old—enjoyed a fortnight's rest in this camp, where the song of the birds and the hum of the bees displaced the sound of the sirens. Altogether 800 encamped there. The Commandant was Miss Pole, a trained Y.W.C.A. worker, who had the assistance of helpers trained in the care of children and experienced in the entertainment and welfare of the mothers. A medical section was at hand. The mothers, when not on rota for voluntary assistance in the kitchen and elsewhere, were taken for excursions in the daytime and enjoyed concerts in the evenings. The Hon. Lady Inskip, the President, and other members of the Y.W.C.A. gave constant care and oversight in the welfare and management, and Miss Pole made an efficient commandant.

This camp proved a perfect antidote to the grimness of shattered homes and the narrow escapes from death and serious injury: the sleepless eyes regained peaceful slumber; the children romped again with carefree glee; spirits revived and appetites sharpened in this "happiness" camp. There was no description more graphic than the words of one mother, "It's lovely to put on a nightdress and really get into bed after nights on end in air-raided shelters."

Visitors were charmed and gave much assistance and encouragement. Queen Mary paid frequent and periodical visits, always giving her helpful advice and practical assistance. The Hinnegar Campers will always cherish the memory of Her Majesty's sympathetic encouragement and kindly gifts to the children.

OXFORD COLLEGES ADOPT BRISTOL

THE zenith of hospitality was reached when ten or a dozen Oxford Colleges opened their portals during the vacation for rest holidays for Bristolians who had suffered night bombing for so many months. It came to pass in this way: Mr. C. M. MacInnes, an old Balliol man and Reader in Imperial History at the University of Bristol, laboured unstintingly amongst the people in the areas most heavily blitzed. He was the main-spring of many movements to maintain morale, to bring music to the people in public places and to brighten the lives of the children. Impressed with others by the need for restful holidays for the worst sufferers he negotiated with the authorities of the Colleges for the accommodation of large numbers of Bristolians during the long vacation, July to September, 1941. The Lord Mayor's Fund Committee gave the necessary financial support so that about a thousand war victims with weary bodies and jaded nerves could recuperate entirely free of charge to themselves for a fortnight in one of Oxford's famous colleges.

The organization and kindly reception of each batch of visitors quickly dispelled any trepidation the holiday makers may have felt on their arrival at these renowned seats of learning. Members and friends of the colleges, and college servants gave up the greater part of their own holiday to tend the wants of their guests. More than thirty voluntary helpers were undergraduates from Bristol University and King's College, London, and senior girls from Clifton High School. Right well did these young folk perform domestic service as nursemaids and scullery maids, and equally well did they exercise social leadership as entertainers, guides and



In the ruins of Mary-le-Port Street, Mr. B. de N. Cruger presents £6,250 from the British War Relief Society of the U.S.A.

[See page 22.]



Mrs. Mass presents £3,000, proceeds of Bristol's Own Flag Day for the National Air Raid Distress Fund.

[See page 35.]



Top : Sister Clark presents The Florida Canteen. (See page 34.)

Middle Left: Nurse Tatem presents the Canteen from the Turks and Caicos Islands. (See page 34.)

Middle Right: Mr. E. S. Scudder opens the Bristol, Rhode Island, Hostel. (See page 26.)

Bottom : Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, presents the Canteen from the Australian Mutual Provident Society. (See page 34.)

friends. These teams were ably led by Mrs. M. Fenwick, by arrangement with the Oxford branch of the Y.W.C.A., who kindly granted the use of their premises.

The colleges which rendered this hospitality are briefly mentioned. Corpus Christi, one of the smallest, has always had a great reputation for learning. Merton, generally accorded as the oldest college (Charter, 1274) has a fine library, ranking with the Bodleian. Oriel has had many famous members, among whom were John Keble, Newman, Arnold, Pusey, Froude, Tom Hughes and Cecil Rhodes. Christ Church is the most magnificent foundation in the country, with the grandeur of her Great Quadrangle and Cathedral, and her renowned sons including John Locke, Canning, Peel, John and Charles Wesley, and the Prime Ministers Gladstone, Salisbury and Rosebery. Balliol, closely contesting Merton's antiquity, during the last century has given high academic achievements through Southey, Swinburne, Matthew Arnold, Asquith, Lord Grey and Lord Curzon with her famous Masters, Benjamin Jowett and A. L. Smith. New College, founded in 1379, produced men who founded All Souls' and Magdalen, while in recent times the late Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, probably England's greatest Minister of Education, was Warden of the College. University College features the Shelley Memorial Statue to her illustrious member. Magdalen, with the Duke of Windsor on her roll, and where Sir H. Warren, a Bristolian, was President has buildings over an area of twelve acres and grounds occupying nearly a hundred acres, where deer browse within a stone's throw of the High Street of the City. St. Hilda's, St. Hugh's and Lady Margaret Hall are three women's colleges, all founded during the last sixty-three years.

During their residence in Oxford the Bristolians occupied the rooms used by the undergraduates in term time. They took their meals in the magnificent college halls and were served by the college scouts in the usual way. In the mornings they visited other colleges where dons acted as guides. A choice of amusements awaited them in the afternoons, arranged to suit young and old. There were games in the gardens, boating on the river, trips by steamer and visits to the houses and gardens of hospitable Oxford citizens. Evenings were enlivened by organized entertainments, visits to the New Theatre with free tickets provided by the management, lectures, whist drives, social evenings and concerts.

During the last week-end in August, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bristol, accompanied by Mr. C. M. MacInnes, Mr. H. V. Hindle and party spent a few days at Balliol. They visited the other colleges where the visitors were staying and attended a service on Sunday, which was held in the Chapel of Balliol College for those Bristolians then in Oxford. His Worship the Mayor of Oxford was present. The Preacher was Dr. A. Mansbridge, founder of the Workers' Educational Association, and the Lord Mayor read one of the lessons. The following day the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and their party were the guests at a civic luncheon given by the Mayor and Corporation of Oxford. The 800 beneficiaries spoke most highly of their enjoyment and the benefit derived from their stay at Oxford. Their experience will live long in their memory.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

THE Heads and Governors of several residential schools and colleges in the Western Counties offered the loan of their buildings during the summer vacation for the provision of holiday rests for air-raid sufferers. Hundreds of Bristolians

spent a fortnight's rest and change amidst an excellent standard of social amenities. Their comforts and enjoyments were planned by trained officials, aided by undergraduates of the University of Bristol and girls from some of Bristol's schools for Higher Education. A brief record of these hospitable places of learning is justly merited.

Clifton College had evacuated to Bude on the north coast of Cornwall. The health-giving qualities of this resort on the edge of the King Arthur country with its equable climate, bracing Atlantic breezes, grand cliff scenery and rugged headlands provided the ideal conditions for diversion and rest for the jaded and overwrought under the care of the Lord Mayor's scheme.

The School for Girls at Sherborne, Dorset, provided an interesting setting in that picturesque market town with its twelfth-century church. Amongst the 120 entertained fortnightly were groups of girls (ages 12 to 15 years) from Senior Schools, each accompanied by a teacher. They were drawn from badly blitzed areas of the City, which included new Corporation Housing Estates, where many had been provided with homes when slum areas in the older part of the City had been cleared before the world war. The Lord Mayor and his party of visitors to Sherborne School were greatly gratified to have the testimony of Mrs. Harris Jones, the House Mistress and voluntary Commandant-in-charge, that the standard of cleanliness, speech, table-manners and general bearing of these girls was such as to command general approbation. The spacious lawns, grounds and swimming pools, in which nearly all the Bristol girls were swimmers, opened a new vista in the lives of these senior girls which they will ever remember.

The Somerset small township of Bruton has two Foundation Residential Secondary Schools. Sexey's School was built in 1889 out of surplus revenue of a hospital established in 1638 by Hugh Sexey who, from being a stable boy, rose to be an Auditor to Queen Elizabeth. The Sunny Hill Girls' School was founded by King Edward VI on the site of an older institution. Here, with Miss Wells as Commandant and her staff, mothers and young children requiring nursery conditions received unstinted care, and all greatly benefited.

Sidcot School, belonging to the Society of Friends, is situated at Winscombe, a beautiful Somerset village in the heart of the Mendip Hills with a fine church tower, a magnificent specimen of perpendicular architecture. Very happy conditions prevailed at this holiday centre under the management of the Quakers, aided by the school staff and other voluntary workers.

THE BLIND

A HOSTEL for the blind who were able to leave their Bristol homes was established at Lympsham, a Somerset village, by the initiative of Miss Diffey, a sighted Home Teacher of the Blind, who resigned her post at the Royal Blind Asylum and with her intense interest in the welfare of the Blind undertook this task as a voluntary act of social service. The Lord Mayor's Fund provided a grant of £100 for initial equipment. Under the thrifty management of Miss Diffey the twenty or more blind persons who evacuated to this hostel made this project self-supporting. This community of the blind took part in the village life at Lympsham where they were made welcome. Later, the hostel was transferred to most suitable premises at Burnham-on-Sea.

HOSTEL FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES

IN one of the loveliest parts of Wye Valley, near Monmouth, a home was established for mothers and babies. The house taken for this purpose dated from Tudor times and is surrounded by three-and-a-half acres of its own grounds. There people have rested from raid worries under the supervision of the Bristol University Settlement, which sponsored the scheme under the guidance of Miss H. Jennings, M.A. The hostel was financed by a gift of £1,000 from the funds raised by Gracie Fields in the U.S.A., which was presented by Dr. T. Loveday (Vice-Chancellor of the University) on behalf of the English-speaking Union, and by a gift of £1,000 from the Lord Mayor's Fund. Professor G. C. Field received these gifts at a formal presentation at the University Settlement at Barton Hill.

WINTER REST HOME IN THE SOUTH

DURING the period of May to September over 4,000 raid victims had been accommodated under these schemes. But there remained a long waiting list. To continue the good work during the winter months from October to April the Committee entered into an arrangement with the Cintra Hotel at Bournemouth, one of England's recognized winter resorts, where accommodation was reserved for seventy guests to be in residence each fortnight. Those who could not afford to pay the cost were not excluded, but those able and willing to pay the whole or portion were allowed to do so.

Full amenities for families were provided, including an equipped nursery. Miss Reed, with her successful experience at Hinnegar Camp, made an excellent warden. Miss Catherine Watson was the children's warden and they were assisted by a trained nursery helper. The Mayor (Alderman A. H. Little), the Corporation and people of Bournemouth as well as the Rotary Club gave valuable support with gifts of toys, games and perambulators, and by facilities for outings and indoor amusements.

In the inaugural week the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress accompanied by Mr. Hindle, the honorary secretary, and party, joined the Mayor and Mayoress at lunch at the Cintra Hotel with the first party of the 1,000 Bristolians who participated in this holiday scheme. Bristol's thanks to Bournemouth were extensively reported by the local press. In his graphic account of the proceedings a press-man thus describes one of the mothers from Bristol: "Perhaps the most cheery mother of all was Mrs. Blom. She believes in smiling at life—and bombs. With her five children—ages from 8 years to 18 months—she escaped with minor injuries when a bomb caused the back of her house to collapse during a raid. She had put the youngsters under the stairs for safety and managed to get them all out unscathed. 'My advice to mothers in air raids is to keep cool,' she said, 'I keep the children's minds off the bombs and guns by giving them toys to play with or starting a sing-song. There's no time to be ill with five children to care for.'"

The following day the Lord Mayor, addressing a large gathering at the lunch of the Bournemouth Rotary Club, whose president, Mr. F. Wynn Cotterell, has close family connections with Bristol, said he had visited many who had been bombed out, and many casualties in hospitals, but he had never heard a complaint. He paid a high tribute to the medical services of his City, the Housing Authorities

and the generous donors in all parts of the English-speaking world. There was a great spirit of co-operation and people affected were starting business again. The human factor was the greatest factor. They could rebuild streets and businesses, but it was difficult to rebuild wrecked lives.

A happy sequel to this function was the receipt of 100 guineas from the Chairman of a company connected both with Bournemouth and Bristol who was present. In a covering letter he stated: "You certainly gave us an inspiring talk and I came away full of admiration for what you have done."

Such gifts and those many hundreds received gladdened the heart and eased the mind of the Treasurer to the Bristol War Services Fund. No record of this eventful year of benevolence would be complete without reference to the long and efficient service Mr. H. J. G. Rudman has given in that honorary capacity. A former Sheriff of this City, he has for many years gathered and skilfully nursed the funds of many civic schemes of benevolence in this City.

EVACUATION OF THE CHILDREN

At the outbreak of war Bristol was designated a neutral area, but after a period of heavy raids the Ministry of Health sanctioned a partial evacuation of the children. In February, 1941, the first party of 6,370 children from elementary schools left the City for Devon and Cornwall including the City of Exeter and Torquay and Barnstaple. The plans were hastily and effectively made in record time, with the enthusiastic support of teachers in the schools, the special service of those teachers who were selected as divisional officers, and the loyal backing of the administrative staff under the leadership of Messrs. M. O. McAuliffe, M.A., and G. H. Sylvester, B.A., the Education Officers. For many weeks the Education Office never closed at week-ends and was open until late every evening. The first evacuation staff was a triumph of adaptability, including all branches of the administrative staff.

Following further raids the Ministry agreed that the whole of the City should be declared an evacuable area, and, in April and May, 3,132 children were evacuated to Cornwall and Somerset. Later in the year 823 were sent to North Devon. Throughout the period other Bristol children were evacuated, unaccompanied, to billets privately secured by their parents. An additional 6,671 left Bristol in this way and were scattered in many reception areas in England, Wales and Scotland. From Secondary Schools 138 students were merged with existing Secondary Schools at St. Austell and Cheltenham, and the 132 from Technical Schools were housed in premises at Clevedon. The very young and the physically handicapped children were well cared for in the eleven nursery, two open air, and one deaf residential schools set up by the Education Committee in the Western Counties. The actual number of children involved in all the evacuations was 20,085. In addition, the Health Committee opened nine residential homes for children under the age of two years, and made arrangements for the evacuation of expectant mothers.

Every care was taken to ensure that the children officially evacuated would leave the City for their new homes in "ship-shape Bristol fashion." All received two medical examinations within four or five days of leaving the City. A very strict standard of personal cleanliness was adopted. In many necessitous cases essential articles of clothing were provided so that children might go into the

reception area suitably clad, both for their own welfare and to avoid undue burden upon the foster parents. An ill-clad child would be a victim to inferiority complex with its consequential evils of anti-social conduct. The main items of clothing provided were boots, mackintoshes and underwear. The Lord Mayor's Fund provided £3,444 for this equipment. Additional supplies were provided from the gifts of clothing received from America and Australia. The W.V.S. gave great assistance in the distribution. The new boots and clothing, when donned for the great adventure, changed many faces of anxiety into smiles of joy and happy anticipation of the days to be spent in the new homes.

The scenes at the railway stations on the days of departure brought joy into the hearts of many. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were present when several thousands entrained. Marshalled by their teachers and leaders the children marched into the stations with identity labels tied on their lapels, their kitbags slung over their backs and their suitcases in their hands. At the head of one procession a Union Jack waved, whilst children lustily sang "Roll out the barrel." There were no tears. Enthusiasm prevailed. The teachers had been veritable dispensers of courage. From one end of a train to the other were smiling faces with waving and cheering mingled with the Lord Mayor's words "Bless you all; keep the flag flying."

The good work was followed up in the reception areas where Bristol teachers and helpers, supported by the teachers of the local authorities, kept constant vigilance over the children's needs which were met in no less than 1,528 necessitous cases. These schemes did not remove the responsibility for clothing from the parents whose circumstances enabled them to attend fully to their children's needs.

A Social Welfare Fund, formed by the Education Committee with grants from the Lord Mayor's Fund, provided toys and games for use in evacuation hostels and in the organized leisure of school parties. The Bristol teachers did a tremendous amount of good work in keeping contacts with Bristol children and attending to their welfare, particularly in scattered areas. They formed clubs, or troops of Guides or Scouts for the occupation of the children and contributed largely to the success of the evacuation arrangements. Area leaders gave conspicuous service as the direct agents of the Education Committee. Billeting and other minor difficulties were brought by parents to the Education Office in Bristol and were successfully solved.

In the autumn the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Councillor F. C. Williams, Chairman of the Education Committee, Councillor F. A. Webber, O.B.E., Mr. G. H. Sylvester and Mr. A. J. Roberts, Inspector of Schools, visited the evacuated children and teachers in Exeter, Torquay, Alphington, Budleigh Salterton, Dawlish, Dunsford, Exmouth, Kingsteignton, Netherton, Starcross, and Topsham on an organized tour. The party received a cordial welcome from the Mayors, leading citizens and foster parents. The Lord Mayor publicly expressed Bristol's gratitude and said the obviously robust state of the children's health and good spirits were tributes to the kindness and generosity of their Devon friends. Councillor Williams added his testimony and thanks. The Mayor of Torquay, who had met most of the trains bringing evacuees to that town, said he was agreeably surprised to see how beautifully clean, well-clothed and well-shod the children were after their hard trials in Bristol.

The Lord Mayor's impressions of his tour were reported in *The Western Morning News* in these terms : " My general impression is that our children are being efficiently and well cared for. I asked a number of them whether they had put on weight and some said from six to ten pounds and more than one—over a stone ! They are bright and cheerful and in excellent spirits. We went into many of the little Devon homes and found our youngsters spotlessly clean, comfortable and homely. The foster parents have taken the children into their family circle as their own. The civic leaders, the county authorities, clergy, school managers, members of the local councils, in fact, the community generally are taking a live interest in the welfare of our children. It was most gratifying to learn that the standard of the physique of our children, and the excellence of their clothing and equipment created a profound impression when they reached Devon."

Shortly after the end of his year of office, the Lord Mayor, then Deputy Lord Mayor, visited St. Austell where he addressed the assembled students from Bristol Secondary Schools, the staff, and members of the St. Austell and Cornwall Councils. Accompanied by the ex-Lady Mayoress he toured the neighbouring villages and found that Cornish hospitality to Bristol children reached the same good standard he had met in Devon.

NOTABLE VISITORS

MANY eminent personages visited the City to express their sympathy, to offer their meed of praise for the courage displayed, and to tender their benevolent assistance. These welcome visitors mostly came during the winter months, November to April, the period of the greatest stress and strain when only brief respites from enemy action were experienced.

His Majesty King George, accompanied by H.M. Queen Mary toured the City on 16th December, 1940. The King was welcomed at the gate of the City by the Lord Mayor, General Sir Hugh Elles (the Regional Commissioner), Mr. C. H. W. Davey (the Sheriff), and the Emergency Committee of the City Council. His Majesty's words of sympathy greatly cheered the large crowds who gave him an enthusiastic welcome, particularly in those residential areas which had received the heaviest blows. Queen Mary paid several subsequent visits to the Hostels, the British Restaurant, the Cathedral and large factories to cheer war-workers. H.R.H. the late Duke of Kent was a welcome visitor to industrial and commercial undertakings.

On 12th April, the morning after one of the heaviest blitzes, Mr. Winston Churchill, accompanied by Mrs. Churchill, Mr. R. G. Menzies and Mr. J. G. Winant, found Bristol stunned after a severe and prolonged attack and a well-nigh sleepless night. His cheery confidence and inspiring personality greatly helped in the prompt restoration of Bristol's spirit. After touring the City he attended a Congregation of the University of Bristol as its Chancellor and conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Mr. Menzies, the Prime Minister of Australia, and Mr. J. G. Winant, the U.S.A. Ambassador.

Other members of H.M. Government who visited the City include : Mr. Ernest Bevin, M.P., Minister of Labour ; Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, M.P., the Minister of Health, now High Commissioner to Canada ; Mr. H. Morrison, M.P.,

Minister for Home Security; Mr. H. Ramsbotham, M.P., Minister for Education; Lord Woolton, Minister of Food; Mr. E. Brown, M.P., Minister of Health; Mr. W. Mabane, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Security; Mr. MacMillan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Supply; Mr. Brendan Bracken, M.P., Minister of Information; Lord Rushcliffe, Chairman of the Assistance Board. The Archbishop of Canterbury and Lady Reading, the Chairman of the W.V.S., greatly encouraged all by their visits.

NOTABLE VISITORS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTACTS between the U.S.A. and Bristol were greatly strengthened by the visits of illustrious American citizens. Reference has already been made to Mr. J. G. Winant, Mr. Bertram de N. Cruger, Mr. E. S. Scudder and Mr. G. Carr. Great interest was aroused in the visit of Mr. Wendell Wilkie, who made a short tour of the ruins in the centre of the City in the twilight early hours of a raw February morning just before his departure for America. Welcomed emissaries from the United States included: Mr. Herschel Johnson, American Minister in London, Dr. J. Frank Norris, Messrs. Thornton Wilder and John Dos Passos. Members of the American Civil Defence Mission included Capt. D. S. Leonard, Dr. Huntington Williams and Messrs. A. W. Wallenden, F. M. Roessing, H. M. Prince; and Mr. J. M. Gauntlett, of the British War Relief Association. The American Medical Mission, who gave expert professional service, was represented by a deputation of twelve ladies and gentlemen.

"BRISTOL FASHION"

In the time of her travail Bristol, a City of many benevolent institutions accrued from the benefactors of bygone days, fully maintained her tradition for hospitality and aid to those in need. Mindful of their obligations to others the citizens raised nearly £20,000 in the first few months for Mrs. Churchill's Red Cross "Aid to Russia" Fund; sent £6,000 to the Lord Mayor of London's Air-Raid Distress Fund; raised large sums, mostly by weekly contributions of the people, for the Red Cross Society; continuously dispatched comforts and gifts to men in H.M. Forces; contributed £200 to the Governor of Malta's Relief Fund; and welcomed within her walls many engaged on National Service. A Scotch airman gave publicity to the appreciation of Bristol's hospitality in these terms: "Until recently I was an ordinary airman in the vicinity of Bristol. I came there about nine months ago, a bit home-sick and with few friends. I found nothing but the greatest kindness and hospitality from your people. Never in my life have I seen people so helpful to one and all, especially to men of the Forces. The W.V.S. and the Y.M.C.A. and other organizations are magnificent. Now a few words about the trying times you are enduring. No factory could ever make enough medals for your bravery. You will always be an inspiration and a memory ever green."

It may well be that the people were just fulfilling the old phrase of doing things in "ship-shape and Bristol fashion" of which Sir W. Scott wrote in the *Chronicles of the Canongate* in 1829: "When we set out on the jolly voyage of

life, what a brave fleet there is around us, as stretching our fresh canvas to the breeze, all 'ship-shape and Bristol fashion,' pennons flying and music playing, cheering each other as we pass."

"VIRTUTE ET INDUSTRIA"

THUS closes one more chapter in the Bristol history of 1,000 years. The smouldering embers of the romance of this ancient City will again be kindled into the bright flame of zeal for the complete restoration of her walls in ship-shape, Bristol fashion. The natural beauty within the City bounds will continue to inspire her people. Of this scenic beauty Ruskin wrote to a friend: "I don't wonder at your admiring Clifton. It is certainly the finest piece of limestone scenery in the kingdom, except Cheddar, and Cheddar has no wood. Did you ever find out the Dingle running up through the cliffs on the south side of the river opposite St. Vincent's? When the leaves are on, there are pieces of Ruysdael study of rock there, with the noble cliff through the breaks of the foliage, quite intoxicating."

Bristol's motto is "Virtute et Industria," emblazoned on the City Arms (1569) with its full-rigged ship and ancient castle—the wedded emblems of trade and adventure with fortified strength and endurance. To-day will be added the spirit of the people as given in the words of His Majesty King George, "'Tis not the walls that make the City but the people who live within them."



Peace.
Bristolians in Wadham College garden.

